TheFlyShop
international travel magazine

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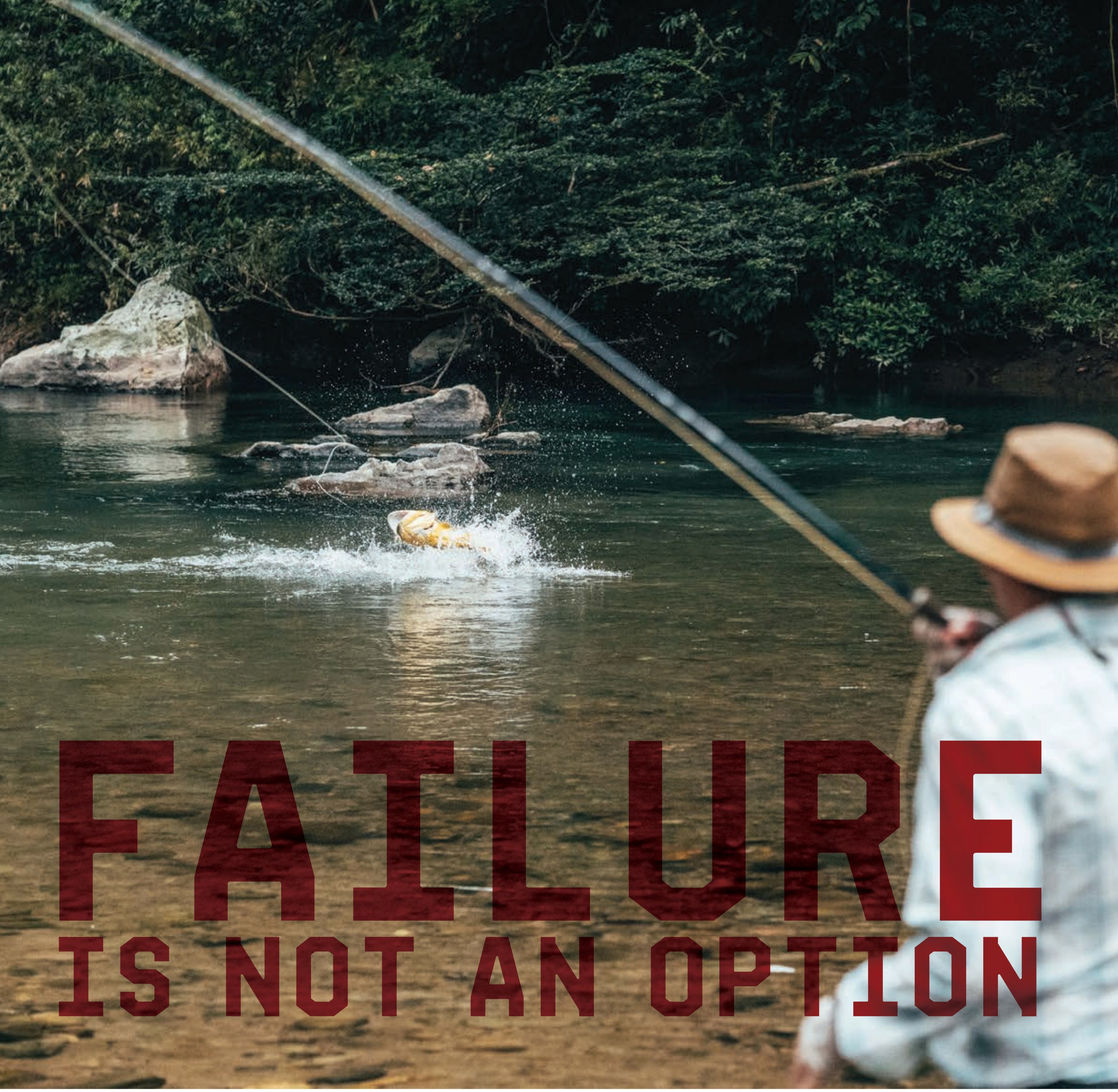
2023 SEASON

Where *and* When *to* Go



SONAR TITAN
TROPICAL/JUNGLE CLEAR TIP

"The Scientific Anglers Sonar Titan Jungle Clear Tip is my choice for fishing Amazonian Dorado in the Bolivian mountains. Its unique taper turns over big streamers in a single cast – crucial when you face a feeding frenzy or a dorado crossing right in front you and only have seconds to make the shot."

- Marcelo Perez, SA Advisor

HARDER COATING AND
STIFFER CORE TO MAINTAIN
SLICKNESS
AND ABRASION RESISTANCE
IN DEMANDING JUNGLE CONDITIONS

- Excellent turnover due to short, powerful head
- Overweighted by two line sizes for quick loading and delivery of big flies to distant targets
- 15' clear intermediate tip for stealthy presentations
- Slow sink rate gets flies just below the surface
- Tropi-Core technology

SCIENTIFIC ANGLERS
SONAR TITAN
JUNGLE CLEAR TIP

Friends

Matt Harris photo

As with any journey, the friends we make are more important than the destinations we travel to.

WE STRONGLY BELIEVE that in the end, light will prevail over darkness and the world will return to a place where peace and freedom are extended to all our neighbors, friends and families wherever they call home. When that day comes, we will be the first ones to return to the people and places that we have built relationships with over the last 30 years. People we trust and love, our partners that we have always stood beside, and who have always stood by us, to help protect the wildest fisheries and rivers left on earth. We will all stand together in the light again.

Pat Pendergast, Director
The Fly Shop International Travel
pat@theflyshop.com

Val Atkinson photo

Our Signature DESTINATIONS

are a cross section of the planet's finest fly fishing lodges, outfitters, and camps.

They're an honor roll of great fishing spots, and the culmination of more than four decades of field exploration, experience, and hands-on involvement by the #1 team of fly fishing consultants in the business.

Signature Destinations are often represented exclusively by The Fly Shop®, our small network of reputable angling travel agencies worldwide, and a few of the top fly shops.

From the remote, hard-core, Mexican saltwater lodges to our luxurious Tierra del Fuego sea trout lodges, these world-class fly fishing experiences share common threads that extend beyond great angling.

Our Signature Destinations do not necessarily designate luxury, but is an assurance of quality and top-notch performance. Each has been thoroughly vetted by our staff and is considered by our experts to be a superb destination.

The Fly Shop's Signature Destinations are not just blind endorsements purchased with a checkbook. They are a stamp of approval earned only after each spot has met the highest performance standards in the industry. Ours!

Let our team of experts connect you to the best in the world of international fly fishing travel

We've been there. Over the last forty plus years, our travel staff has hosted anglers on expeditions all over the world and our retail team has outfitted tens of thousands of travelling fly fishermen.

The Fly Shop's travel team has our finger on the pulse that measures the sport, and more than 150 years of collective international fishing travel under our belts.

We're thoroughly familiar with the hotels, airlines, the very best connections, and all the intricacies of our lodges and camps. We know the exact rods, reels, lines, leaders, and flies that you'll need on these trips because we're expert anglers and we have been to all the places we represent.

We've done all the work, so that you don't have to. When you book with us we put that experience and know-how to work for you. Our service is legend and we'll make sure you're properly prepared for every step of your angling journey.

Signature Destinations carry our total endorsement. It's The Fly Shop's promise of satisfaction and our iron-clad guarantee that the quality of the experience and angling is going to be exactly as advertised.

The Fly Shop's Yucatan Signature Saltwater Destination: Espiritu Santo Bay Lodge - ESB
Toby Nolan photo

QUICK TRAVEL REFERENCE

9 **alaska**
Lodges and wilderness camps in our 49th state

24 **alaska steelhead**
Lodges in our 49th state

26 **canada trout**
Terrific trout fishing in the Western Provinces

29 **top anadromous targets**
Grand Slam of Swing – Justin Miller

30 **canada steelhead**
British Columbia's best

33 **atlantic salmon**
Fly fishing's original trophy game fish

38 **argentina**
A guide to trout fishing the eastern slopes of the Andes

39 **jurassic trout**
The world's top trophy stillwater fishery

40 **tierra del fuego**
The ultimate destination for trophy brown trout

46 **chile's patagonia**
Understanding the west slope of the Andes premier trout fishing

56 **the best of new zealand**
Top fishing on the North and South Islands

58 **mongolia**
Taimen, the largest salmonid on Earth

60 **rumble in the jungle**
Exotic angling in tropical freshwater

62 **peacock bass in brazil**
The two top destinations in the Amazon

70 **top spots for golden dorado**
A guide to the meanest sport fish in freshwater

76 **tigerfish in africa**
Tanzania's ferocious predators of East Africa

78 **mexico's yucatan**
North America's top fly fishing flats prospects

88 **bahamas**
The best Caribbean trophy bonefish destinations

98 **belize and central america**
Eco-friendly angling inland and off the coast

104 **cuba**
Our favorite hotspot in the land of Hemingway

105 **flats of the indian ocean**
GTs, giant bonefish, and more

108 **australia**
Terra australis "land of the south"

112 **turks & caicos**
Miles and miles of flats too shallow for conventional boats

114 **prime travel**
The Fly Shop's Prime Travel club

Our cover: *The Fly Shop's Signature Destination: Escondido, Chile, Patagonia BaseCamp photo*

Stay up-to-date on the latest fly fishing news, reviews, equipment and fishing reviews. Log in at theflyshop.com/travel/reports.html

Objectivity. We're our customers' advocate. Our job is to find the best spot at the best time, to work within your budget, and get you the best possible deal. And in those rare situations when things might go wrong, we're in your corner.

References. From former Presidents of the United States to the landscaping laborer that travels with us every year, our clients rave about where we've sent them, the job we did getting them there, how well prepared they were when they arrived, and how exactly the trip met their expectations.

Price. There's no less expensive way to book a trip to any lodge or camp in our portfolio than through The Fly Shop®.

Friends on the fly

Kindred spirits woven together with fly lines into the elaborate tapestry of fly fishing.

Photography: Antti Rastivo, FlyCastaway, Rafael Costa, Val Atkinson, Pat Pendergast, Eric Ersch, Mike Mercer, Greg Maxwell, Justin Miller, Isaias Miciu, Mark Murray, Mike Michalak, Ricardo "Pinti" Pinto, Gerson Kavamoto, Bill Marts

Finding the best fishing in Alaska

Brian O'Keefe photo

Our selection of Alaska lodges & camps will put you right in the middle of the action

AFTER OUR FIRST half dozen visits to Alaska, we realized we'd never be experts on the place. Each successive visit drove that point home, giving us an ever-increasing appreciation for how magnificent the state is, how much there was to learn, and how elusive it was going to be to actually achieve "expert" status.

Arian Stevens photo

Collectively, the travel staff here at The Fly Shop® has owned Alaska lodges, guided there, and we've outfitted thousands of fly fishermen for their trips north. It's fair to say The Fly Shop® has spent as much or more time exploring Alaska's fishing as anyone in the world of angling travel. Now, after more than four decades we remain as passionate about, and as fascinated by Alaska as the day we first arrived.

We know, too, that accurate representation of Alaska fly fishing requires more than a few visits to a few different lodges or camps. There are hundreds of Alaska fishing operations and every one of them will tell you their place is absolutely the best. Obviously, only a few of them can be right.

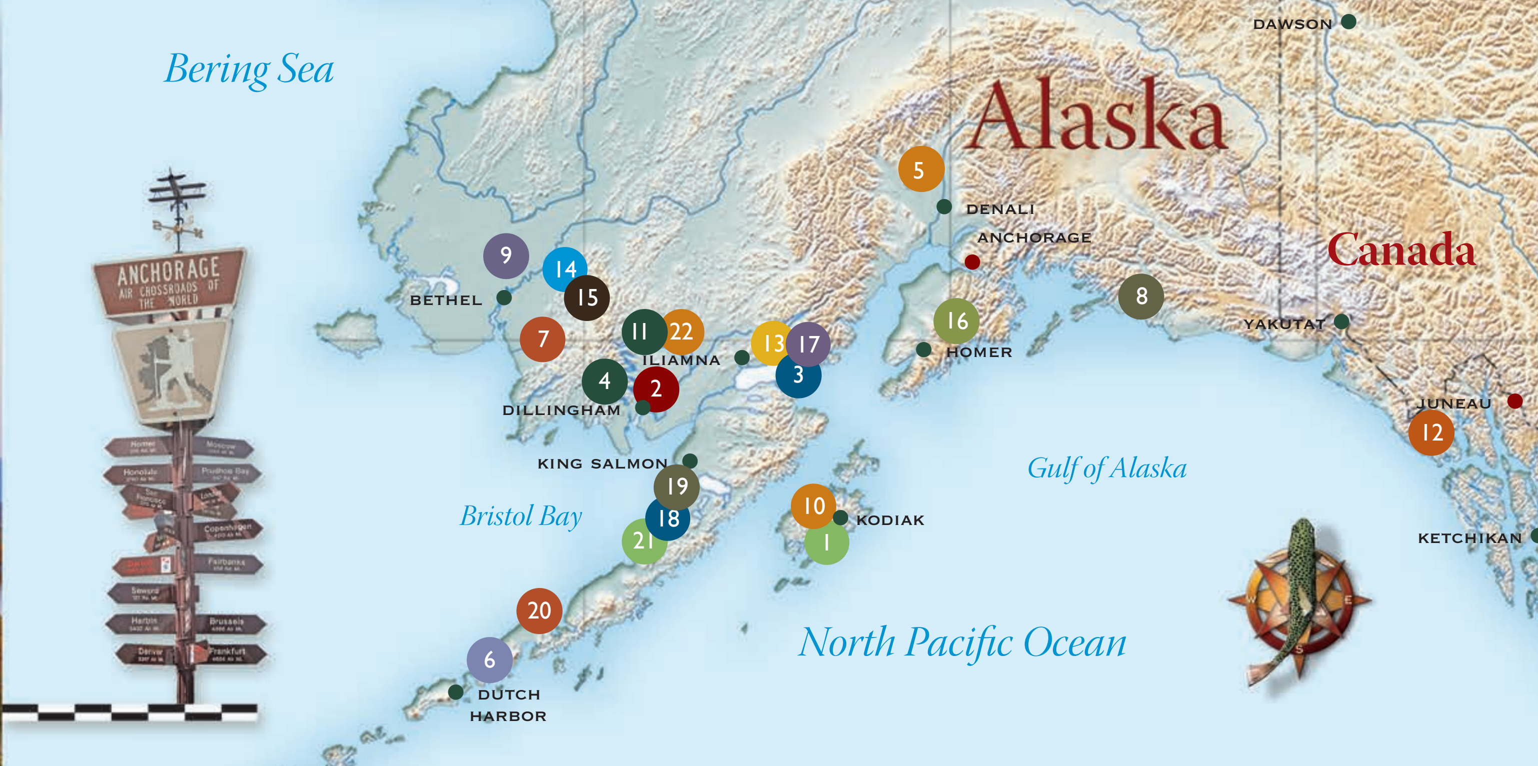
We are, arguably, the most experienced angling travel firm in the business and we know what the "best" in Alaska is all about.

Our wealth of knowledge translates into a very firm grasp of the top trout and salmon fishing opportunities in our 49th state and a degree of objectivity that travelling anglers won't find elsewhere.

We've been proving that we know what we're talking about, and that we're in your corner for more than forty years. With our help and the benefit of our experience and unbiased opinion, anyone choosing an Alaska fishing lodge or camp will have a better understanding of the differences between all these places and end up with a better trip.

We work every day with anglers from all walks of life to build terrific fishing trips that fit their budgets and their interests.

When anglers work with us, they get our objective opinion. That help doesn't cost an extra dime. In fact, none of the fly fishing lodge packages we offer can be found anywhere else in the world for less.



Choosing from among the best fly fishing lodges & camps in Alaska

ALASKA IS LARGER than Texas, Montana, and California combined. The state sells over 237,000 out-of-state fishing licenses each year and another 315,000-plus to residents. Fishing there is legendary and the understandable focal point for every serious trout & salmon fisherman at some time in his or her life. But, as any Alaskan will tell you, if there's a road to any river in the state, it'll be as crowded as any spot in the lower 48.

The solution is to add a plane to your tool kit, and Alaska is full of fly-in lodges that cater to anglers. Every one of those places will tell you they're "the best". Of course, only a few are correct.

The Fly Shop® travel team is the recognized authority on Alaska fly fishing, and we have a terrific portfolio of lodges and camps, with something for everyone. They represent a wonderful cross-section of Alaskan fly fishing geography, cover a wide assortment of angling interests and a broad range of price options.

Alaska is currently one of the hottest places on the angling map for US fly fishing travelers, as it is relatively effortless to access, boasts a treasure trove of true wilderness, and has world-class angling. Because of this, available space at lodges in 2023 is disappearing very quickly, so we suggest reserving space now!

THE FLY SHOP'S SELECTION OF ALASKAN FLY FISHING LODGES & CAMPS

1 **Duncan's Steelhead Camp**
Remarkable wilderness steelhead fly fishing in our 49th State

2 **Outpost on the Nush**
Dawn to dark fishing at a spot where you don't have to move far for a true wilderness trout fishing experience.

3 **Royal Wolf Lodge**
Rated by our travel veterans as one of Alaska's top fly out lodges. A perfect location with superb guides and trophy trout.

4 **Royal Coachman**
It doesn't get much better than this isolated, riverside fly-out lodge in the heart of the most prolific salmon and rainbow fishery in our 49th state.

5 **Talaheim Lodge**
Helicopters, planes, and great rainbow trout fishing nobody else can get to.

6 **Hoodoo Lodge**
Kings and Silvers 'til you drop in a river custom-tailored for fly fishing.

7 **Goodnews River Lodge**
Super-productive rainbow, silver, and king camp in the middle of nowhere.

8 **Hidden Cove Lodge**
Hard-core silver salmon from dawn to dark and a no-frills lodge.

9 **Aniak River Lodge**
The focus at Aniak is on mouse-eating rainbows, and silvers.

10 **Ayakulik Outcamp**
Phenomenal silvers and some of Alaska's best steelhead fly fishing. This is Alaska the way most people imagine.

11 **Iliamna River Lodge**
Outstanding trout & salmon fishing. A great family destination.

12 **Trotter's Baranof Wilderness Lodge**
A great fishing destination for the entire family.

13 **Copper River Lodge**
Great guides and undoubtedly Alaska's number one dry fly river.

14 **Duncan & Sons**
Two superb mobile camps on the Chosen River. Trout, char, grayling, silvers, and kings in a remote setting.

15 **Alaska West**
One of Alaska's most popular trout and salmon camps!

16 **Alaska Steelhead Company**
Stellar and easily accessed steelhead, a short flight from Anchorage

17 **Big Ku Lodge**
A unique, small lodge with great fishing right out the door and three of the finest rivers in Katmai only a jet boat ride away.

18 **Rapids Camp**
Great planes, guides, and location to access the best of the Katmai, Iliamna, and Becharof regions.

19 **Bear Trail Lodge**
Its King Salmon location is a dead-center base for silvers and rainbows.

20 **Sandy River King Salmon & Steelhead Camp**
Arguably the absolute top steelhead river in the entire United States.

21 **Lava Creek Lodge**
This kick-ass king and silver fishery only has room for 8 anglers each week.

22 **Rainbow River Lodge**
Dead center location for unbeatable trout & salmon.

ALASKA'S FINEST

Fly-Out Lodges

Having a float plane to get to the trout in remote rivers is the ultimate Alaska experience!

ANGLERS PLANNING a visit to a fly-out lodge in Alaska have more to look forward to than just a memorable fishing vacation. Each morning of the week, the float plane lift-off exposes the full glory of Alaska, transporting anglers into a magical aerial world. The elevation during the flight to the fishing grounds is kept intentionally low to allow passengers a chance to see more of wild Alaska than is imaginable. These scenic flights to distant rivers often pass over moose, bear, caribou and wolves. Anticipation builds along the way as they pass over land and scenery leaving everyone breathless, until they're dropped into water full of char, salmon and wild-ass rainbows.

Bush planes offer fishermen access to rivers and streams beyond the horizon and often out of reach by boats. These aerial angling taxis change the dynamics of a fishing trip dramatically and translate into more fishing opportunities and diversity. Of course, the more distant the final destination is from civilization and the more time spent in the air during the week, the higher the price tag is going to be.

Many small Alaska streams are too shallow and dangerous to land a plane on, but there are over 3 million lakes in Alaska and quite a few deep rivers, bays, and waterways. The fly-out lodges in the 49th state use this massive network of aqua-landing strips to spot their guests on the top trout and salmon streams in their area.

> *An Alaska fly-out lodge is a spectacular slice of life. It is an incredible angling epic. One of the great parts of each day's fishing is more than the arrival, or a constantly tight line. It's the journey.*

The talented, expert bush pilots based at fly-out lodges monitor hundreds of miles of rivers, flying to the best each morning. They'll sometimes guide clients to more than one river in a single day, and are instructed to bring guests back at the end of every day tired of catching fish. The top targets change with the calendar as a summer parade of salmon and trout peak in each of the different drainages, and it's great to have the ability to be able to take advantage of the best of the nearby opportunities with winged transportation. Even flying into a remote camp or lodge where anglers use jet boats will improve an Alaska fishing trip immensely.

The round trip range of most float planes is about a hundred miles. Draw a circle representing that distance around the region you're interested in fishing, choose a fly-out lodge in your price range near a hub like Iliamna, Igiugig, King Salmon, Dillingham or Bethel, and with a float plane you'll have access to every action-packed stream, river, and all the rainbows and salmon inside that ring.

Depending on how many planes are available, the group size, and their daily destinations, pilots either stay with their fishermen, or leave them in the hands of expert guides, returning at the end of the day to pick up their fish-weary passengers and hustle them back to a cozy fire, cold cocktails and a warm lodge.

Be prepared for the price tag. These trips are expensive and worth every cent.

YAMAHA
N2429L

Arien Stevens photo

Get the net.

Swiftcurrent™ Wading Jacket

Built with Bureo's NetPlus® material, a 100% recycled nylon made from reclaimed fishing nets, the Swiftcurrent Wading Jacket is engineered to cast freely, eliminate line snag and keep water where it belongs—in the river.

patagonia®

© 2022 Patagonia, Inc.

talaheim lodge pilots use helicopters to get their guests to some seldom-seen fly fishing in streams full of untouched rainbows. The lucky folks fishing with Talaheim enjoy a spectacular combination of unforgettable angling on the Talachulitna, *(their famous home water)*, and fabulous daily fly-out fishing in some near-exclusive rivers and streams accessible only because of Talaheim's specialized aircraft.

The Talaheim fly fishing adventure begins only 35 minutes by air from Anchorage and includes the round trip charter flight from there to the lodge.

▲ 6 night/7 day package $9,600

rapids camp lodge is located on the banks of Alaska's most famous giant trout river, the Naknek. For those looking to break the 30-inch rainbow trout barrier, there is no better river in the state in September and October. Rapids Camp offers much more than just local fishing, though – their two de Havilland Beavers and turbine Otter on floats transfer guests daily to the finest of the local streams and rivers, including places on the Alaska Peninsula that very few other lodges access. This means fishing on streams stuffed with rainbows, dollies, char, and seasonal Pacific salmon and water that, in some cases, sees very few anglers each year.

▲ 7 night/6 day fishing package $11,900 *2022 rate*

▲ *Single/private rooms*

rainbow king lodge

Located a stone's throw from Lake Iliamna, Rainbow King is one of a handful of so-called legacy lodges in the Bristol Bay/Iliamna drainage. It sits in the epicenter of some of the best rainbow trout fishing in the world. Rainbow King is a world-class fly-out lodge, with many of the best trout streams 15 to 30 minutes away by floatplane. The longest flights are an hour to the coast, where anglers target fresh runs of Pacific salmon. Within a short flight, or quick jet-boat ride, lies world-renowned trout fisheries like the Newhalen, Talarik Creek, Moraine, Gibraltar, Funnel, Dream, South East, Copper, Kvichak, Battle, Kukaklek, the American – the list goes on and on…

▲ 6 night/6 day fishing package $9,850

royal coachman lodge is located in the heart of the Wood-Tikchik Park on the banks of the Nushagak's main tributary, the Nuyakuk River. This riverside lodge has superb fishing right out the front door, is only a short flight from the region's most prolific trout and salmon rivers, and holds an exclusive permit on a fantastic salmon river in the Togiak National Wildlife Refuge.

Royal Coachman features two float planes, exceptional cuisine, a great staff, and private accommodations for each two guests. The scenic, riverside lodge location is dead-center in the 49th state's most scenic and least crowded trout and salmon water and has a well-deserved, five-star reputation for expert guides.

Royal Coachman encapsulates the best of the Alaska fly-out experience and regularly meets the expectations of the most demanding angling travelers. The Fly Shop® couldn't recommend it more highly!

▲ 7 night/6 day fishing $11,350

bear trail lodge is located in the King Salmon/Katmai region of western Alaska. Lodge owners/operators Nanci Morris and Heath Lyon have been guiding anglers in this corner of Alaska for decades, and know the many local rivers as few others do. Their facility is a multi-building lodge on the banks of the Naknek River, itself legendary for some of the largest rainbow trout in the state. Guests are accommodated in separate cabins, each with private bathrooms and beautiful views of the home river. The main lodge is grand, with stunning views of the river, an amazing sunroom overlooking the nearby mountain ranges, a comfortable great room, and a dining room where guests take sumptuous meals daily.

Service is the top priority at Bear Trail Lodge. It is a fully-outfitted fishing lodge, owned and operated by serious anglers who have not overlooked any opportunity to make their guest's stay the best it can be. From the beautifully-appointed guest cabins to the finest local guides, from providing the highest quality waders and fishing gear to their clients who prefer not to travel with their own, everything has been put into place to insure a fishing trip of a lifetime. The staff caters to your every whim, including special dietary needs and chef-prepared meals. Testament to their success is that Bear Trail Lodge books solid each and every season, and advance reservations are critical.

▲ 7 night/7 day fishing package $12,925

▲ *Shorter stays are available, starting at* 2 night/2 day $5,150

copper river lodge

This lodge helped make Alaska and the Copper River famous. Sixty years later, it remains one of the top streamside lodges in the state and celebrated its Golden Anniversary with an entirely new lodge in 2014. Copper River Lodge is an over-the-top combination of early dry fly fishing, late season trophy trout fishing, terrific guides, great equipment, and the Iliamna Lake region's most beautiful river.

▲ 6 night/6 day package $8,600

Royal Coachman Lodge photo

Talaheim Lodge photo

Abe Blair photo

We have included two new fly out destinations to our existing strand of pearls that complement our wonderful showcase of superb fly out options.

Each morning of the week, the float plane lift-off exposes the full glory of Alaska

An Alaska fly-out lodge

is a spectacular slice of life.

It is an incredible angling epic.

One of the great parts of each day's fishing is

more than the arrival, or a constantly tight line.

It's the journey.

iliamna river lodge is located 200 miles southwest of Anchorage in the Lake Iliamna Basin. Accessible only by jetboat or floatplane, their location on the Iliamna River, at the east end of Lake Iliamna in Pile Bay, is dead center in the middle of some of the finest sportfishing in all Alaska.

Nestled among pines overlooking the Iliamna River where the lodge's float planes land and take off, the lodge affords guests easy access to fabled local waters to fish for trout, salmon, and Arctic char, as well as nearby saltwater species such as halibut and bottom fish. Guests are accommodated in newly built and spacious heated cabins with walk-in showers, full bathrooms and a front porch that offers fantastic views of nearby peaks and the Iliamna River.

In general, the Iliamna River is "the bread and butter" fishery for Iliamna River Lodge with exceptional fishing for Arctic char, rainbow trout, and sockeye salmon The river itself has an aquamarine turquoise color that is truly unique to the region. Depending on your choice of angling package, fly out options could include silver salmon fishing on a coastal stream, chasing Arctic grayling with dry flies, or a day of casting streamers and surface patterns for northern pike…the fishing options are endless, only limited by your imagination and stamina.

Unique to Iliamna River Lodge is the variety of non-fishing activities and eco-tourism adventures at your disposal, making it a perfect venue for the entire family. Activities include fat tire mountain biking, ocean tours and/or fishing for halibut, sea kayaking, beachcombing, flightseeing, nature viewing and photography, birding, rafting and more. Each day is customizable to your specific interest and you can count on the staff to work hard in making your Alaska adventure memorable and special.

▲ 7 night/7 day fishing package $10,400 for 5 flyouts and $9,800 for 4 flyouts
▲ *Additional fly outs $500 per person*

Ken Baldwin photo

rainbow river lodge is located 210 miles southwest of Anchorage on privately held land in the heart of Alaska's phenomenal Bristol Bay and Lake Iliamna "Trophy Alaska Rainbow Trout" watershed, and conveniently adjacent to the Katmai Wilderness. This fly fishing lodge offers magnificent views of the Alaska wilderness and the beautiful Copper River, arguably one of the prettiest trout rivers in Alaska.

Rainbow River Lodge has been rated as one of the "ten best fly fishing lodges in Alaska" and their home water, the Copper, has been described by Trout Unlimited as one of the "top 100 best trout streams in the world", and Alaska's first fly fishing only, catch and release fishery.

Nestled among black spruce on Pike Lake where the lodge's float planes land and take off (*just off the Copper River*), the lodge affords guests easy access to fabled local waters to fish for trout, salmon, and Arctic char, Dolly Varden, Arctic grayling, northern pike and lake trout.

Rainbow River Lodge is strategically located within a short flight of Katmai Preserve and National Park, which boasts some of the most remarkable landscapes in the world. And the region's watersheds, gin-clear and cold, pouring from ancient tarns, harbor some of the largest remaining salmon runs on the planet. Just as easily accessible from the lodge, to the northwest, are the protected waters of Lake Clark National Park and Preserve, a labyrinth of rivers, creeks, and lakes teeming with trout. With a squadron of four, float-equipped DeHavilland Beavers, the menu of daily fly out fishing locations is extensive and varied.

Now with over 25 years in operation, Rainbow River Lodge has become a legend itself and one of the finest fly fishing lodges in Alaska.

▲ 6 night/6 day package $10,400

Rates include the round trip transfer flight between Iliamna and the lodge.

PEBBLE MINE

The fight is still on!

THE FLY SHOP'S fight against Pebble Mine started in earnest when we helped fund the award-winning documentary film, Red Gold, directed by Ben Knight and Travis Rummel of Felt Soul Media. The film brought to light the irreparable environmental consequences of a proposed open pit mine in the headwaters of Bristol Bay, Alaska. This project, put together by Northern Dynasty (*an international mining corporation headquartered in Canada*), is designed to extract more than $300 billion of copper, gold and molybdenum.

The call went out to the fly fishing industry and was answered with overwhelming enthusiasm and commitment – the fight was on. Pebble Mine is the wrong mine, in the wrong place – save Bristol Bay!

Bristol Bay, Alaska, is an area of unparalleled ecological value. It supports the world's largest and most productive wild salmon fishery, with more than 75 million wild sockeye salmon alone expected to return in 2022. This salmon fishery is an economic powerhouse, generating $2.2 billion in annual economic activity and sustaining 15,000 annual jobs. It produces roughly half of the world's commercial supply of wild sockeye salmon, providing Alaska, America and the world with a healthy, sustainable source of seafood. Its salmon are central to the lives, cultures and livelihoods of the many Alaska Native communities that have thrived in Bristol Bay for millennia.

Close to 15 years later the fight is still on! The fate of Bristol Bay is now in the hands of the Environmental Protection Agency. The EPA, through the Clean Water Act 404(*c*) has the authority to permanently protect Bristol Bay for future generations.

Take action now and help stop Pebble Mine for good.

https://www.savebristolbay.org/

Bob Cusack's Lodge photo

ALASKA'S TOP TROUT CAMP

Royal Wolf Lodge

Exciting and great news – Royal Wolf Lodge and its sister destination, Big Ku Lodge, are under new ownership! New owners, Chad Hewitt and Bill Betts, bring a legacy of excellence in operating small, high-end fly out lodges and their hands-on, personable attention to detail can be seen in everything they touch. Former owners, Chris and Linda Branham, created two of the most popular and iconic wilderness Alaska fly fishing lodges and set a very high bar…the new owners will build on that heritage while also molding them to their own vision.

THE HELIO COURIER floatplane banked gently over the low hills, dropping into an impossibly green tundra plain, the silver strand of a river sparkling below. It was a river I knew and had fished many times in the past, but always far downstream. This headwaters valley was inaccessible to all but those with aircraft specially designed with STOL (*short takeoff and landing*) capabilities, which the Helio possessed. As we approached the small lake which would serve as our landing pad, I mentally judged the walking distance to the river at about a mile. Small price to pay for exclusive access to this magical stretch of water for the day.

Stepping down from the floats into the weedy shallows of the lake, my fishing partner and I waded ashore and assembled our gear while our guide unloaded his pack and helped the pilot nose the plane into the prevailing breeze. The little Helio was airborne almost immediately and quickly droned out of sight, leaving the three of us standing alone in the middle of a vast wilderness, the anticipation of what was to come almost overwhelming.

Thirty minutes later we reached the stream, and as expected for this mid-September date there was a handful of dying sockeye salmon finning weakly in the shallows. And there, in the gravelled run below them, was what we had come for. The rainbows appeared huge and dark in the knee-deep riffle, not at all nervous at our approach. These fish had clearly not seen an angler in some time. My friend didn't even bother to wade, throwing his white flesh streamer just above the nearest trout which hovered 30 feet away. We all watched, mesmerized, as the enormous rainbow sidled lazily towards the tumbling strip of rabbit, the scene playing out in complete clarity before us. With no hesitation it accelerated the last few feet and engulfed the streamer. I heard the guide's urgent grunt, my friend struck, and the slow motion theater shattered as 28 inches of pissed off leopard rainbow cartwheeled again and again, ripping line and backing as it headed downriver.

Turning my attention back to the pool in front of me, I was shocked to find the other trout still calmly in their positions, improbably unaffected by the sudden and violent departure of their comrade. Splashing my own white streamer above the largest fish I could see, I watched as it too surged to the fly, and now my friend and I had the better part of five feet of rainbow trout crashing through the shallow flows of this little river.

Just another day at the office for guests at Royal Wolf Lodge.

royal wolf lodge's wilderness location in the heart of Katmai National Preserve puts this place in a league of its own. Their pilots have a tremendous daily advantage with specialized Helio Courier float-equipped planes *(capable of short take-offs and landings)* "that can land on a fencepost" and are able to target hard-to-reach spots that are considered beyond the grasp of most other lodge aircraft.

This top-tier lodge location is second to none, and from their riverside lodge on the Nonvianuk River, deep in Katmai National Park, they're not only within quick and easy range of the most famous trout streams in Alaska, their planes are often en route to the fishing before fog-bound Iliamna and King Salmon lodges have warmed their engines.

The lodge has a time-tested and well-earned reputation for excellence. Their assemblage of guides rate as among the best in the business, and with specialized aircraft serve up a steady diet of great fishing. Royal Wolf guests enjoy deluxe cabin accommodations and a magnificent panoramic view from the lodge's cocktail area and popular social center. The kitchen is renowned for serving up four-star food to guests who are dog-tired of catching rainbow trout.

▲ 7 night/6 day package $12,750

Rates include the round trip transfer flight between Anchorage and the lodge.

Royal Wolf Lodge photo

ALASKA'S TOP TROUT CAMP

Big Ku Lodge

Brian O'Keefe photo

is perched high on a bluff above the Kukaklek River, just where it flows out of Kukaklek Lake. It's the only lodge on the river, which is one of the most famous, productive, and least impacted salmon and trout streams on the Alaskan frontier. Big Ku is surrounded by 4 million acres of National Park, near a bunch of great rivers, and the only way to get near it is by float plane.

BIG KU'S LOCATION is perfect. The small, six-person lodge is located on the Kukaklek River only a few hundred yards from the outflow of Kukaklek Lake. This spectacular river was among the first in Alaska to be designated "Wild & Scenic" and harbors more sockeye salmon and wild rainbow trout than can be accurately counted.

This isolated outpost combines the best of all worlds for the serious trout angler – four incredible rivers within quick and easy boat access, and a home-base that is as comfortable as it is remote. As a bonus, anglers get two fly-outs during their week, in addition to the four days of boat access fishing.

It's the only lodge on the Kukaklek River shoreline and from this convenient hub the fishing begins right out the front door. Once Big Ku guests arrive, they've got a premier river within a stone's throw of their cabin, and have unlimited after-hours access to the nearby pools on the legendary Kukaklek River. They can fish anytime they would like, before and after their normal fishing day. There's a fleet of swift jet boats on the riverbank that can deliver them to eight spectacular miles of the top tier home river before it funnels into near-impenetrable rapids and heads swiftly to the sea or any three of Alaska's other top trophy rainbow trout rivers *(the Little Ku River, Battle River, and the Moraine)* without the dependence or the expense associated with daily float plane flights.

Anglers can leave early for any of their daily angling targets, arriving on the water well before the Iliamna and King Salmon lodges have started their float plane motors. In the long Alaska summer days, they can arrive earlier and stay later than the competition, who often have to adjust their daily schedule to compensate for weather as well as the long commute.

The *National Geographic* view from the porch includes Katmai Preserve, the adjacent Park, and some of the most remarkable landscapes in the world. Turn your head, you will see, heavily forested mountains, a vast expanse of tundra and fish-filled water. There are glaciated mountain ranges, active volcanoes, agate beaches, wild blueberry bogs, and a gin-clear, ice cold watershed harboring some of the largest salmon runs that remain on the planet. It is no wonder the area is considered one of America's most precious and pristine natural parklands.

Big Ku Lodge opens its door for trophy trout fishermen in June when the Kukaklek rainbows are ravenous. The huge rainbows of the Katmai/Iliamna basin average 2-6 pounds and there are trophies over thirty inches landed every year.

big ku lodge rates include all lodging, guiding, round-trip charter flight from Anchorage to the lodge, flies, all meals, instruction, limited beer and wine with dinner, soft drinks and juice and new for the 2022 season, two fly-outs to destinations of the lodge's choice. Fishing gear can be provided if requested in advance. Not included: fishing licenses, hard liquor, leaders, fishing gear (*see above*), gratuities, and additional fly out's (*$450 per person*).

▲ 7 night/6 days $8,950 with two fly-outs

The six-person lodge is just right for small groups, couples, or a few close friends.

Big Ku Lodge photo

Brian O'Keefe photo

ALASKA'S BEST

Riverside Camps & Lodges

Matt McCormick photo

UNTIL THE MID-80'S the goal of most prototypical Alaskan fishing trips was to dig as deep as you could into your wallet, pay a pilot to get you as far from civilization as possible, set up a tent on a river, fish hard all day, and return home with a sore arm and lots of stories.

The fishing in Alaska hasn't changed much since those days, but the camp experience has gradually been replaced by upscale lodges with daily float plane shuttles to distant streams, and prices that go hand-in-hand with those expensive options.

What few isolated streamside camps and lodges remain are a reminder of the golden age of frontier fly fishing, where everything, including anglers must either be brought in by float plane or barge.

The few riverside camps remaining that are permitted in Alaska's state and federal parklands now feature enviro-friendly tents, eco-kitchens, and sanitation facilities.

Contemporary camps and streamside lodges now enjoy lights powered by solar, wind or quiet generators, propane heated showers, and are an experience that can be called camping only by the loosest application of the term. Some are rustic on-the-water river lodges, while others are still equipped with Weatherport tent-cabins erected every spring and removed each fall on wildlands leased from the State, the Feds, or local Native groups who typically don't allow permanent structures and insist the land remain as raw and unimpacted as possible.

Jet boat transportation and high-tech equipment have exponentially raised the level of comfort, yet still these fishing outposts are rapidly being replaced by luxury lodges outside the parklands and chased into history by wilderness legislation.

But there are places on 'grandfathered' leaseholdings and pre-park patented lands where a spectacular wilderness and a fish-til-you-drop atmosphere accompany home-cooked meals, enthusiastic guides, and still embody the bush camp experience.

These spots usually don't offer daily fly outs. They rely, instead, on a quality local fishery. Their on-the-water locations often allow more fishing time each day, and require less concern about weather or flying conditions. These outfitters cater to more adventuresome self-reliant anglers.

Accessed only by bush plane, these remote wilderness camps are usually a small intimate affair, offering a season long tug-of-war with salmon, char, rainbows, or grayling. Sometimes it's all of the above. Anglers depend on jetboats to get to nearby, red-hot fishing in rivers and small tributaries that are all but impossible to reach any other way.

These are places where you don't have to worry about getting to your favorite beat and finding someone else wading in the center of it. The river is usually just beyond the threshold or outside the flap of the tent, and the dawn 'til dusk fishing is limited only by your enthusiasm and stamina.

The Fly Shop® represents the finest cross-section of camps, riverside lodges, and fly-out lodges in our 49th State!

trotter's baranof wilderness lodge is one of the most popular family fishing vacation lodges in the world. Inquire early about space at this Southeastern sportfishing Mecca because there's something for everyone, but not much availability. The menu includes a mixed bag of salmon, char, and halibut fishing, whale watching, or lounging in the hot springs. The lodge and meals are superb and hosts both spin and fly fishermen. This is our #1 recommended top spot for couples and families in Alaska.

▲ 5 night/5½ day package $7,050 in 2023

aniak river lodge is a taste of "Old Alaska" and reminiscent of when we began fishing there in the 70's. Anglers have jet-boat access to endless miles of untouched river, side channels, and tributaries stuffed with rainbows, Dolly Varden, grayling, and silvers. Possibly the best mousing in all of Alaska. Guests stay in large tents with ensuite bathrooms and showers.

▲ 7 night/6 day package $7,765

duncan & sons

This family of angling pioneers have established true wilderness float trips and two classic Alaskan bush camps to choose from, along with a season long pageant of terrific rainbow, char and salmon fishing on the famous Chosen River.

▲ 7 night/6 day packages $6,000 - $6,100

alaska west

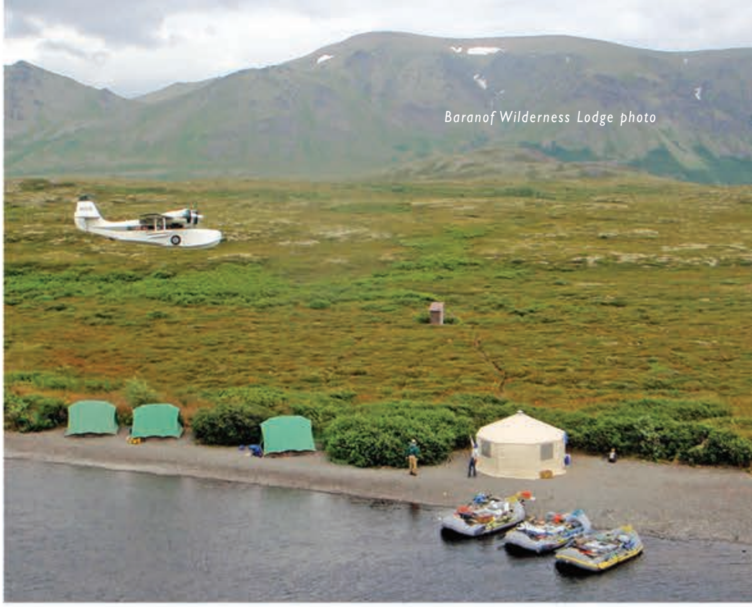
This is the gold standard of hardcore trout, king, and silver salmon camps. Quality guides and all-day access to the magnificent Kanektok River fishery have made this camp world famous.

▲ 7 night/6 day package $6,945 - $7,295 *2022 rates*

goodnews river lodge

This has been regarded as the classic Alaskan king, silver, and chum salmon camp for three decades. The Goodnews is one of the few great rivers where king or silver salmon fishing coincides with terrific rainbow trout action, and with more char and grayling than mosquitoes. Rates include round trip charter flight between Anchorage and the lodge, and the Native Land Use fee

▲ 7 night/6 day package $9,360 - $10,360



Baranof Wilderness Lodge photo

Baranof Wilderness Lodge photo

outpost on the nush

The Nushagak is one of the top trout fishing river systems on the continent; an experience shared only by the others in camp, the moose, bears, and about a million rainbow trout. This is Alaska the way it used to be. An isolated camp, reached only by float plane, cozy wood cabins, top food, and non-stop fishing right outside the door.

Though remote, little is sacrificed in the way of the camp's creature comforts. Fly fishermen head out at their leisure with expert guides each morning after a hearty breakfast, for as much fishing as they can handle. Nearly every inch of the Nushagak for thirty miles in each direction is fishable and the trout-savvy guides in this camp rate among the best in Alaska.

▲ 7 night/6 day package $7,000

Brian O'Keefe photo

CHOOSING THE BEST

Alaska Kings & Silvers

PINK FIREWEED SIGNALS the arrival of the King in Alaska's rivers and mid June to mid-July is prime time in the 49th state. Chinook ripen quickly once they hit fresh water and it's critical to plan your trip for the peak of the run in the river you're considering.

The best of those rivers for fly fishing run clear and shallow, where fly rodders don't have to resort to using super fast sinking fly lines and ultra-heavy outfits. And it's an even smaller directory of places where that brand of productive fly fishing can be enjoyed in privacy.

Pound for pound, Silvers (*Coho*) are the best fighting fish in Alaskan fresh water and the most aggressive and fly-friendly of the five Pacific salmon. It's more common than unusual to hook and land dozens every day. An average Coho will tip the scales at about 9 pounds and a trophy silver weighs in the high teens. That translates to hundreds of pounds of striking, fighting, pulling, jumping salmon each day!

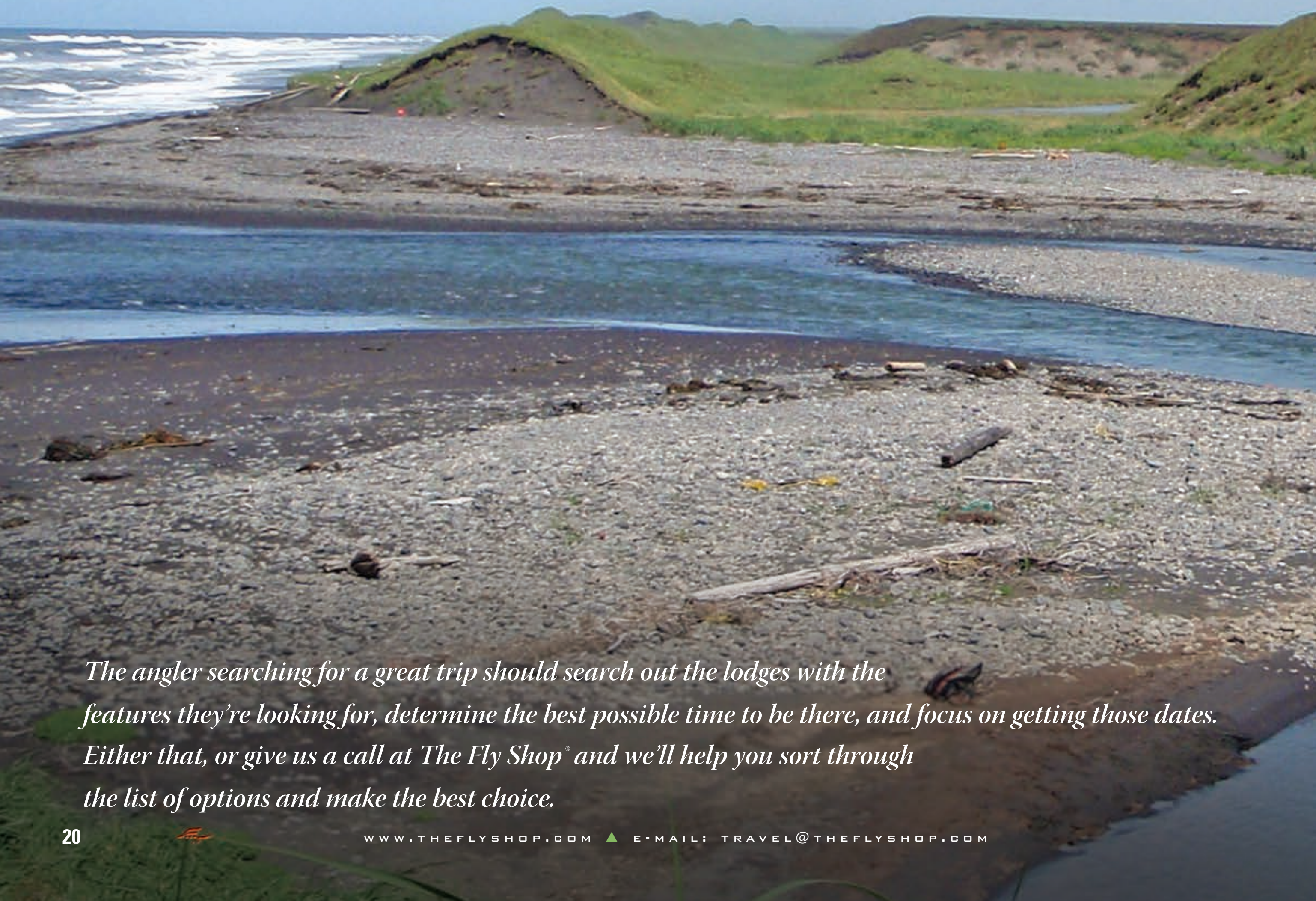
Generally, the best silver fishing begins in August and (*in some places*) continues through the end of September. Action lasts a little later on Kodiak Island and farther down the Aleutian Peninsula than on the Kenai or in coastal mainland rivers.

THERE ARE DOZENS of Alaskan salmon camps, lodges and outfitters. Every one of them claims to have the absolute best location, the best lodge, the best guides, the best food and the best fishing. In fact, the list of great Alaska salmon fishing lodges is short, and the list of bad ones is just as short. These are some of the great ones:

hoodoo lodge is the main event. The Sapsuk River is shallow, clear, and chock full of aggressive kings in June and July, then wall-to-wall with silvers during August and September. The lake-fed river is custom-tailored for fly fishing and doesn't blow out in foul fall weather. It's narrow enough to cover with single-handed rods yet broad enough to be fun with powerful, double-handed spey outfits, and its shallow runs and pools don't require ultra-fast sinking lines.

Hoodoo is the most remote lodge we represent in Alaska, far down the Aleutians, in the middle of nowhere. They operate a satellite out-camp on another of these amazing silver and king salmon stream. Hoodoo offers a one-day fly-out option to another isolated silver fishery that's also remarkable.

- June/July King Salmon 6 night/5 days $8,850
- August/Sept. Silvers 7 night/6 day $8,850
- Grand Slam Silver, Chum & King Salmon weeks *(last week of July and first two weeks of August)* $7,850



The angler searching for a great trip should search out the lodges with the features they're looking for, determine the best possible time to be there, and focus on getting those dates. Either that, or give us a call at The Fly Shop® and we'll help you sort through the list of options and make the best choice.

hoodoo's sandy river king and steelhead lodge

This is, hands down, one of the finest king and silver salmon fisheries on the North American Continent. The season is short, space is very limited, and the salmon and steelhead fishing is out of this world.

▲ 7 night/6 day package Kings $9,650 Steelhead $10,650

hidden cove lodge

Hard-core silver salmon fishing from a no-frills lodge only a short hop from Cordova. Easy to get to, and very affordable.

▲ 6 night/6 day package $4,550 *2022 rates*

ayakulik outpost

This cozy, streamside tent camp *(limited to 6 anglers)* is on a remote Kodiak Island river that was custom-tailored by Mother Nature for fly fishermen. The lake-fed Ayakulik is far from the maddening crowd, easily waded, can be covered with single handed rods, and remains clear in all but the worst of weather.

Beginning each June, there are phenomenal numbers of salmon and steelhead that parade past this terrific operation.

▲ 7 night/6 day package $5,800 *2022 rates*

▲ *Space is very limited*

alaska wilderness safari

This acclaimed fly fishing camp is located on Alaska's Aleutian coast in an absolutely breathtaking setting. Fly fishing guests revel in the non-stop, dawn-to-dark action only a stone's throw from the tent flap. With 24/7 temptation to tidal pools and a river filled with impressive numbers of red-hot, ocean-fresh silver salmon, anglers can search for the point where they relax, put the rod down, and say, "Stick a fork in me. I'm done."

This exciting package includes state-of-the-art Weatherport accommodations, hot showers, great food, excellent fly-savvy guides and 2 exciting, scenic days of heli-fishing on a couple of other, seldom-fished Alaskan coastal rivers.

▲ 7 night/6 day package,
including all transportation from King Salmon $7,450 *plus food surcharge*

Brian Donaghy photo

Hoodoo Lodge photo

Arian Stevens photos

ALASKA'S HOT KING & SILVER SALMON DESTINATION

Red Hot Aleutian Salmon Fishing

Custom-tailored for the fly fisherman, this remote operation on the Aleutian Peninsula offers wall-to-wall, dime-bright king and silver salmon fishing in shallow, fly rod perfect rivers.

LAVA CREEK LODGE is hundreds of miles from Anchorage and nearly half that distance from the relative angling congestion of Bristol Bay...It's a small place, accommodating only eight fly fishermen each week in cozy cabins on the shoreline of a remote salmon river.

Using a fleet of swift jet boats, lodge guests are on prime homewater within minutes each morning, testing their tackle against a phenomenal population of bright king salmon in June and July, and an unrelenting wave of silver salmon in August and September. Weather permitting, guests have the option to board a plane destined for one of several other nearby rivers to encounter ocean-fresh salmon in numbers that often defy exaggeration.

Unlike many of Alaska's king salmon rivers flowing into the Bering sea, these short, clear, lake-fed rivers are narrow enough to cover with single-handed rods, broad enough to challenge double-handed spey outfits, are shallow enough to be waded easily and don't require ultra-fast sinking lines.

This is a pristine destination in a wild and beautiful place, with fishing that gets very little outside pressure. The country is spectacular, the lodging comfortable, and the fishing superb. It definitely rates as one of the finest king and silver fly fishing destinations on the planet!

Mike Mercer photo

We're very proud to offer this exciting exclusive addition to our portfolio of Signature Destinations available only through The Fly Shop® and our network of angling agents and professional fly shops.

Lava Creek Lodge

THIS IS A CLASSIC jet boat and fly out operation. Guests rarely, if ever, see other anglers on the river or in this part of the 50th state, so there is no rushing to get to the best water, and with a fantastic, clear, lake-fed river only minutes from the dining cabin, Lava Creek Lodge anglers will always be able to fish full days regardless of what the weather is doing.

The place is custom-tailored for the serious king salmon *(Chinook)* and silver salmon *(Coho)* angler who values remote and nearly untouched water, swing fishing for dime-bright kings, and popper and streamer action for big, hyper-aggressive silver salmon. With the ultra-low occupancy, anglers get the pick of the litter of the best pools on the home river, as well as on the several other nearby rivers that are accessible only by float plane.

Both the home water and the rivers flown out to are shallow, low gradient tundra rivers, easily waded and navigated. They are perfect for swinging flies on sinking tips for king salmon, or casting and retrieving poppers and streamers on floating lines to holding silver salmon. The boats are used for access only, and allow anglers to reach prime runs that are easily waded and filled with fish. Since the rivers are influenced by daily tidal pushes, the boats can follow the fish as they shoulder upriver, or find the pools where they are stacked up at any given time. With two anglers per boat, accompanied by skilled guides, and with only eight guests in camp at any one time, there is always plenty of fresh, fish-filled water to choose from.

lava creek lodge is tailored for small groups of only eight king or silver salmon anglers each week. It's most appropriate for the kind of serious fly rodder who values swing fishing for dime-bright fish over fancy accommodations. They'll get all the slots at the several lake-fed fisheries within daily boat and bush plane range of the lodge. The Lava Creek Lodge fisheries have remarkable numbers of kings and silvers, and the strong populations of Dolly Varden and rainbows are welcome distractions from the exhausting dawn-to-dark salmon action.

- ▲ June/July King Salmon weeks
- ▲ July/August trout weeks
- ▲ August/September Silver weeks
- ▲ 7 night/6 day fishing packages $8,900

Includes round trip charter from Anchorage

- ▲ Single/Private Cabin $1,000

ALASKA

Alaskan Steelhead

Pat Pendergast photo

The sea-run trout of the Pacific Northwest are one of the most treasured prizes in our sport. The Fly Shop® has access to limited space at the most popular spots in British Columbia and Alaska.

STEELHEAD FISHING IN the Pacific Northwest was once the passionate pursuit of tens of thousands of western anglers. Just as California was once the home of the Winston, Scott, and Fenwick rod companies, and San Francisco's Golden Gate Casting Pond was the haunt of practically every great fly casting champion of the day. In fact, our Golden State was once home to the most amazing runs of steelhead ever to enter rivers from the Pacific. The rod companies have moved to Montana, and the huge runs of steelhead in the Eel, Mad, Mattole, Russian, Garcia, Gualala, Navarro, Sacramento, Smith, and Klamath have all but disappeared, particularly when compared to their historic populations.

While there are remnant runs still found on the Yankee side of the 49th parallel, the very best of the wild steelhead fishing and the largest population of these majestic fish left in North America is, for the most part, found in British Columbia and Alaska.

alaska steelhead company

The steelhead rivers of Alaska's Kenai Peninsula harbor very strong runs of fresh steelhead in the fall months, providing a wonderful steelhead fishing experience. These rivers are gorgeous and extremely diverse, from small little coastal creeks, to big water that seasoned guides float with drift boats...and all are productive fisheries. Add to that the uniqueness that these are likely the farthest northern latitude fisheries where you can specifically target wild steelhead. We fish the fall, when chromers begin to enter their natal streams in September, and continue to pour in and move upstream until late October. Add in a helicopter fly-out to a never before fished steelhead stream and you have all the makings of a world-class adventure. The hand-hewed 12 person log lodge is spectacular, affording panoramic views across the Cook Inlet toward the Chigmit Mountains and four active volcanoes. And Chef Felix's cuisine is world-class.

▲ 6 night/5 day fishing with 1 day heli fishing package $6,895 plus 3% tax

ALASKA'S NUMBER ONE STEELHEAD RIVER

pinnell creek, kodiak island alaska

In the early 90's we were a small group of exploratory anglers invited to fish an extremely remote and unknown creek on Kodiak Island, Alaska. What we found was simply amazing, miles and miles of foot-accessed pools and runs filled with wild steelhead in the 6-12 pound range. Fast forward 30 years and after exhaustive appeals, our outfitter was awarded the only commercial permit from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to operate a non-permanent tent camp in the Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge. And we are headed back this fall for another gander. The trip is limited to a maximum of 3 anglers per week, 3-4 times per season, guaranteeing unparalleled solitude and wilderness fly fishing for wild steelhead. Call us to get on the waitlist.

▲ 7 night, 6-day fishing package $6,000 *2022 rates.*
Includes charter to & from Kodiak. Space is very limited.

BUILT
TO FISH

SKWALA

Imagine if someone put the same time, thought, and effort into designing fishing apparel that you put into finding fish. Someone did; **We're Skwala.** We make thoughtful, dependable, comfortable gear—so meticulously built and thoroughly tested that you hardly notice you have it on.

Allowing you to focus on more important things, **like fishing.**

CHECK OUT THE LATEST AT

Trout Fishing in Canada's Western Provinces

LOCAL CANADIAN anglers prefer, as a rule, to spend their sporting time wetting fly lines in the prolific lakes of British Columbia and Alberta, and there's little pressure on what would be considered blue ribbon trout streams south of the border.

The magnificent Chilko, Oldman, Crowsnest, Waterton, Firesteel, St. Mary's and Blackwater rivers are within easy striking distance of Vancouver or Calgary, and are largely overlooked by Canadian fishermen. These, and other Canadian rivers offer some of the best and most prolific wild trout fishing in North America. Progressive government regulations in the "Western Provinces" strictly limit the amount of commercial impaction allowed on these rivers. Canadian authorities manage the number of commercial outfitters, guides, lodges, fishing and foreign hunting licenses and guided hunters and fishermen. All of that translates to no crowds and great fishing.

The lodges and outfitters we have under our wing in British Columbia and Alberta represent a broad spectrum of fly fishing opportunities ranging from remote fly-out lodges to classic float fishing to stalking native rainbows slurping dries on a clear mountain stream. Often they're ideal family destinations.

All of the lodges we represent in Canada are family operated and owned and offer intimate angling experiences with very limited rod space during the short, condensed Canadian summer. Some, like Spatsizi, are among the most popular in North America and demand reservations far in advance. Common to all our outfitters is a genuine concern that each angler's dreams are realized, and a total commitment to meeting or exceeding their trip expectations. It's a different, very special brand of Canadian hospitality that most of us find impossible to resist.

These Canadian destinations offer some of the best dollar-for-dollar values in the world of fly fishing travel!

Jill MacLauchlan photo

mcclean's ts'yl-os park lodge

The Chilko River, flowing through the back yard of this popular British Columbia lodge, offers some of the finest dry fly fishing in the province. Anglers can float a line from a drift boat, jet sled or float tube, and guests can tailor their package around the interests of the entire family. Sportsmen from around the world have been enjoying superb trout fishing, trail riding, canoeing, hiking, and just plain relaxing with the McClean family since 1957. Meals are wonderful, and the lodge allows only 14 guests in cabins or guest suites. A great place for the whole family!

The full week fishing package includes the round-trip charter flight from Vancouver, guided fishing, and access to horseback riding and other activities.

▲ 7-night/6-day guided fly fishing package $5,995 USD

Spatsizi Wilderness Lodge photo

spatsizi wilderness lodge

Spatsizi is one of the most exclusive fly-out wilderness trips on the North American map. It is located on Laslui Lake, more than 200 miles north of Smithers, British Columbia. This family-operated angling Eden offers exclusive fishing inside the incomparable Spatsizi Plateau Wilderness Provincial Park, a 3,600 square-mile chunk of raw land with more trout streams and lakes than could possibly be fished in a lifetime.

The package includes the round-trip charter flight from Smithers into the lake, and daily floatplane trips to some of the finest and most seldom-seen fishing on the continent. It is one of Canada's great, unsung trout fisheries and one of the top values in the freshwater fly fishing world.

▲ 7-night/6-day package $8,800 USD

Spatsizi Wilderness Lodge photo

Alberta's Trophy Trout

THE GREAT PLAINS, that huge, rich grassland defining much of Northern Montana, doesn't stop at the Treasure State's border. Instead it is nearly mirrored on the Canadian side of the border, spreading northeast beyond Calgary. What Canadians call "The Prairie" remains rimmed by those same magnificent Rockies on its western edge and Nature has engraved fish-rich rivers deep into its soil. The region is home to one of the fast-disappearing fishing experiences in North America, a place to fish for wild trout on uncrowded freestone rivers in relative solitude.These rainbows and browns are very opportunistic, unsophisticated fish that don't get a lot of local pressure and are large by any standard. Tales of football-shaped resident rainbows in the 20 to 23-inch range hardly raise an eyebrow in the local bar.

Most of the fishing in Alberta province is open to the public. Fences in this part of the world demand respect, but many of the great fisheries behind a gate or on the other side of barbed wire require only a request and some courtesy to gain permission.

The dry fly season is quite long here, stretching from mid-June through September, and offers a mixed bag of predictable midge, mayfly and caddis hatches, as well as summertime terrestrials. Even when there are no visible hatches, one can often sight-fish to big trout lying in shallow water, taunting these aggressive fish to the surface with a well-placed cast. Southern Alberta's micro-climate is surprisingly more temperate than that of Montana, and the summer weather is very reliable.

eastslope adventures

This Alberta trout Mecca is the most overlooked or best kept secret in North America! Native rainbows, browns and Canadian cutthroat grow big in the local tailwaters, streams and rivers. In addition to spectacular public angling, our outfitter, Cam Jensen, has near exclusive access to miles of private stretches of one of North America's best trout streams.

This savvy team of Canucks target southwest Alberta's productive and unspoiled trout fisheries and consistently delivers the goods. Guests have an almost infinite variety of choices within easy striking distance of the cozy lodge and are able to choose a different fishery every day, or return to their favorite spot to walk-and-wade. There are dozens of nearby rivers and streams to choose from along with several seldom-seen, local fisheries on private property.

It's the rule, rather than exception for flyrodders to hook lots of stout fish on dries and nymphs every day.The rainbows, cutthroats and browns are impressive and deep-bodied, averaging 15 to 20-inches.

The highly acclaimed lodge accommodates only 8 anglers and lies in wide open country with very little angling pressure. Southern Alberta is farm and ranch country and it's easy to get there from the USA with a flight to nearby Calgary or a couple hour drive to the north from Kalispell, Montana.

Eastslope operates from June through October and guests can opt to pursue a Fall run of huge browns in remarkably small Canadian streams and combine it with some terrific duck and goose hunting.

It is seldom that guests share the water with, or even see another fly fisherman. Eastslope is one of our personal favorite destinations and a place we here at The Fly Shop® can't recommend more highly!

▲ 6-night/5-day package $4,290 USD ▲ *Shorter packages available*

Henry Georgi photo

Eastslope Adventures photo

TOP ANADROMOUS TARGETS

The Grand Slam of Swing

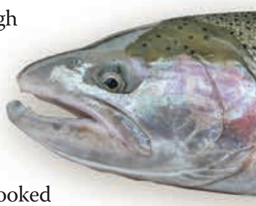
THE TIGHT LINE TUG is what keeps us swinging...It is addictive. There is no sweeter feeling in fly fishing than a swung fly being taken by a sea-run monster in a river...if you swing flies, you agree.

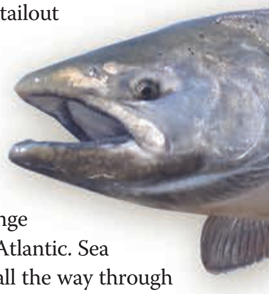
This is the Grand Slam of Swing: Steelhead, Chinook, Atlantic Salmon and Sea Run Browns. All of them are badass. They all have a hardcore following of dedicated anglers and each species dominates on a certain part of the globe during certain times of the year. Any Spey caster that loves one is sure to love the others and getting to shake hands with all of them should be a priority of everyone that swings.

STEELHEAD The Spey casters go-to choice in the Pacific Northwest (*and Pacific Far East*). Unbelievably adaptable, we chase them virtually every month of the year, from the redwoods of California to the rain forests of Canada, from the tundra of eastern Russia, to the high deserts of Idaho. Frozen rivers in January and near boiling in July, we can find steelhead all around the Pacific's Ring of Fire whenever we get the chance to wander. These sea-run rainbows are unique in every drainage. They can average 3 lbs in one river and run in the summer, but thirty miles up the coast they average 15 pounds and run in the winter. They can do it all…steelhead anglers will cast rods from 6 wt to 8 wt, depending on the river, time of year and size of fish. Steelhead smoke skated dries in the summer and fall in gin clear water and crush huge intruders on deep sink tips in water with virtually no visibility in the winter. They can hit it like a freight train, or just barely pluck at the fly. They can run as fast as any fish in freshwater and burn up reels, or dog down and play tug-o-war in the current. They are notorious jumpers, but not all the time…every river, every time of year and every fish has its secrets to unlock making them the ultimate year 'round swing fish of the Pacific.

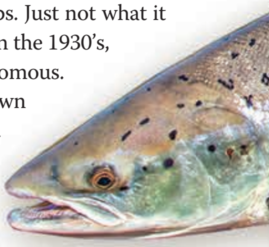
CHINOOK (*Kings*) These are the monsters of the group. Kings top the chart in size, of all of the Big 4, with world record specimens nearing 100 pounds. Also indigenous to the Pacific rim, the native range is very similar and overlapping with steelhead. Chinook are also very adaptable to different river conditions and times of year, but most of the great fly-targetable runs are in the spring through the middle of summer. Finding rivers that are good for swinging for Kings is the trick. Chinook swim many rivers but finding the rivers where the fish hold in moving water that is not too deep and relatively close to the sea are the ingredients for success. The brighter the better with Kings. They take flies better and fight harder the fresher they are. They are actually very grabby when you get the right conditions and fresh fish on the tide can wear you out. Get the fly right down in front of them with the sink tip, they are not known for rising in the water column to the fly, like some of the others. If you figure out how to get the fly right in front of them, they will pound it. The fights are down and dirty. Hard runs and pit bull head shakes are excellent at breaking things like leaders, reels, rods and fingers. Gear up with 9wt's or 10wt's and be ready to pump them up and reel down like a tuna. These things are crazy tough, and super strong. They don't call them "King" for nothing.

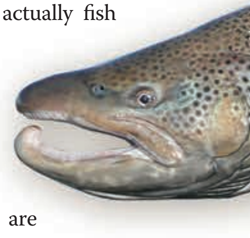
ATLANTIC SALMON Atlantic salmon have a following as reverent as steelhead do, and for good reason. These fish are made for swinging. They move very aggressively to flies and will rise right to the surface for floating line presentations. They can also get on an entirely different scale of BIG, compared with steelhead, with fish over 60 lbs taken on flies. Just like steelhead though, not all salmon rivers produce huge fish. Some just have 5+ pound "grilse" by the thousands. Others have straight hawg's, but lower numbers. Their native range is the North Atlantic with their surviving strongholds being Eastern Canada, up and around through Iceland and the Russian Kola Peninsula and down into Norway and the UK. The main season throughout the range starts in spring, as soon as it ices out up north and runoff calms down some. The fish keep running right through the summer and into the fall. Just like steelhead fishing, adapt to conditions. High cold water in the spring may require sink tips and larger flies but as soon as the water drops and warms by early summer, get ready to skate them up or run wet flies on floating lines. Atlantic salmon can be very aggressive and when hooked will go ballistic. Named *Salmo Salar*, the leaping salmon, they are notorious jumpers and can have blisteringly hot runs. One of them almost broke my thumb when it got whacked by my reel handle while my reel was literally smoking as a 25 pounder shot a tailout chute and hit the afterburner. 10wt's are a good idea with the big guys, you just never know when you are seriously going to need it.





SEA-RUN BROWNS / SEA TROUT Unfortunately, these have been severely depleted in their native range. They once were very prolific in the North Atlantic, occupying the same rivers and range as the Atlantic salmon, on the European side of the Atlantic. Sea trout can still be found and targeted in Europe and all the way through the Kola and into Iceland, but even the most die hard sea trout anglers have told me they put in hundreds of hours of fishing at home every season in Europe for only a few fish a year over 10 lbs. Just not what it once was. Browns were introduced to Argentina in the 1930's, though, and they adapted to become anadromous. Now the island of Tierra Del Fuego is known as the finest Sea Trout fishing on the planet. The Rio Grande river is home to a population of fish numbering over 60,000 returning adults annually and the largest specimens are knocking on the door of 40 pounds. They enter the rivers of Argentina in about November and fishing is predictably excellent by January and throughout the South American summer, until mid April. Just like the others, adapt to conditions. Sink tips in higher water, and you can actually fish floating lines with great success when conditions are right. Time of day can also make you change dramatically. In lower water especially, you may be forced to fish very small nymphs on tips swung deep through the fish mid day, but as soon as the sun gets off the water they consistently take huge intruder type flies. Sea trout actually act like they are feeding and get furious for big flies as the light goes away. Big browns can fight hard too. I am always surprised at how much they jump compared to their resident counterparts...must be something in the saltwater. They can also take long, hard runs, but are notorious for bulldogging and staying down deep and pulling hard and heavy. Careful, the big ones love finding structure to wrap you up and break you off.





I will always consider myself a Steelheader, but my favorite of the anadromous fish in the Grand Slam is the one that's swimming in front of me, and my favorite river is the one I'm standing in.

– Justin Miller *Destination Specialist at The Fly Shop®*
justin@theflyshop.com 800-669-3474 530-222-3555

Canadian Steelhead

The sea-run rainbows of the Pacific Northwest are one of the most treasured prizes in our sport. The Fly Shop® has access to limited space at the most popular spots in British Columbia and Alaska.

STEELHEAD FISHING IN the Pacific Northwest was once the passionate pursuit of tens of thousands of western anglers. Just as California was once the home of the Winston, Scott, and Fenwick rod companies, and San Francisco's Golden Gate Casting Pond was the haunt of practically every great fly casting champion of the day. In fact, our Golden State was once home to the most amazing runs of steelhead ever to enter rivers from the Pacific. The rod companies have moved to Montana, and the huge runs of steelhead in the Eel, Mad, Russian, Garcia, Gualala, Navarro, Sacramento, Smith, and Klamath have all but disappeared, particularly when compared to their historic populations.

While there are remnant runs still found on the Yankee side of the 49th parallel, the very best of the wild steelhead fishing and the largest population of these majestic fish left in North America is, for the most part, found in British Columbia.

frontier steelhead experience

This is an over-the-top experience run by a talented crowd of hard-core steelheaders with permitted access to a super slice of the finest steelhead fishing in Canada. Their skill and work ethic is accented by deluxe lodging, and two rivers with runs of wild steelhead.

Steelhead fishing is all about weather and water, and at this place anglers improve their odds by being able to split the week between the Bulkley and the spectacular Morice Rivers, fisheries ranking at the top of British Columbia's blue-ribbon steelhead options.

Frontier Steelhead Experience guests choose daily between jet boat trips, raft trips, drift boat trips, heli-fishing or overnight float and camp trips in the wilderness portion of the world famous Bulkley.

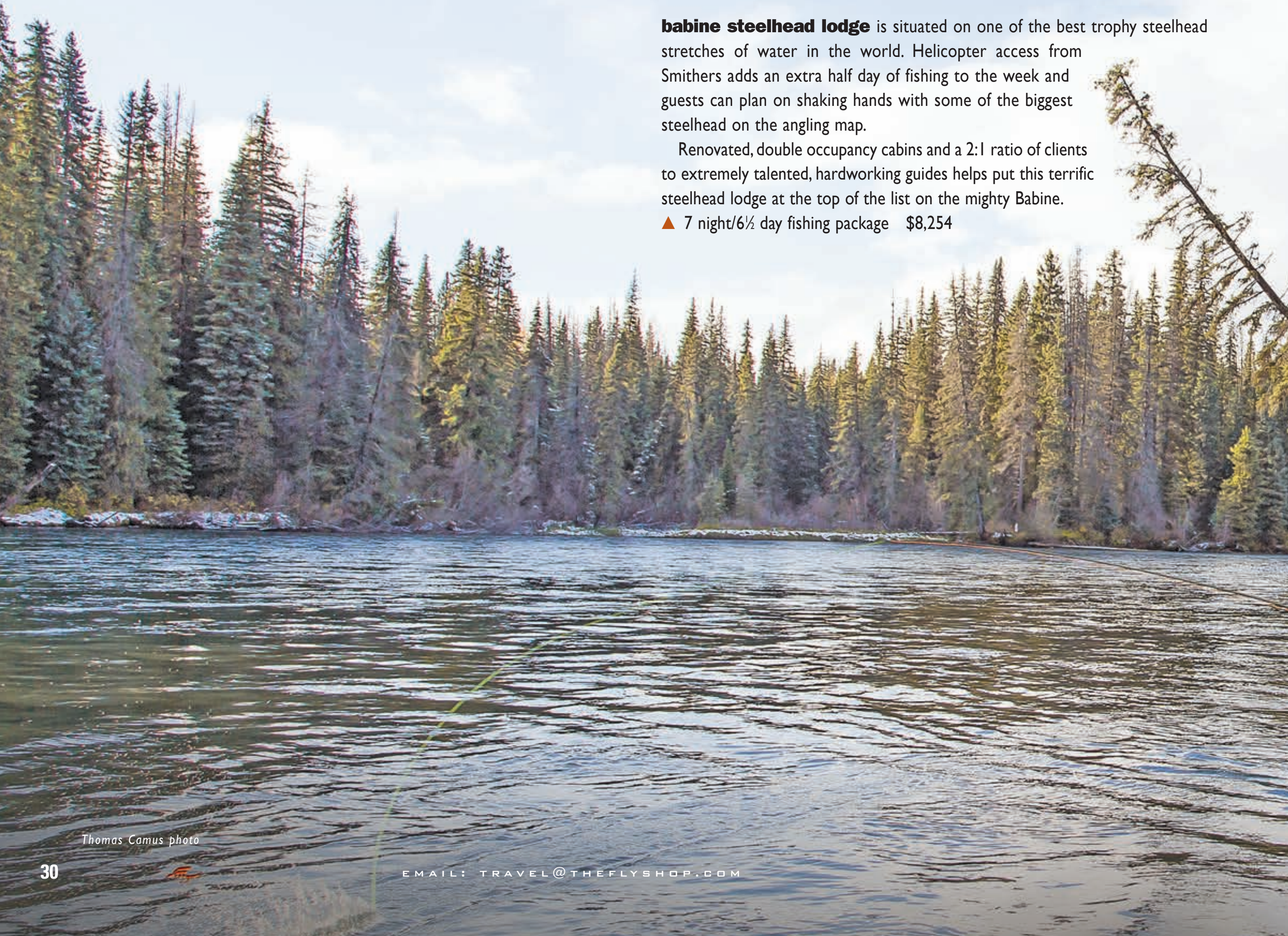
This is an unforgettable steelhead experience that The Fly Shop® staff rates at the top of the pile.

▲ 7 night/6½ day package $8,380

babine steelhead lodge is situated on one of the best trophy steelhead stretches of water in the world. Helicopter access from Smithers adds an extra half day of fishing to the week and guests can plan on shaking hands with some of the biggest steelhead on the angling map.

Renovated, double occupancy cabins and a 2:1 ratio of clients to extremely talented, hardworking guides helps put this terrific steelhead lodge at the top of the list on the mighty Babine.

▲ 7 night/6½ day fishing package $8,254



Thomas Camus photo

suskeena lodge

Rated by veterans and steelhead experts as among Canada's best, the lodge is located perfectly, half way up from the confluence of the Sustut and Skeena. It is more than a hundred miles from any road and separated from civilization by an impenetrable wilderness. The lodge and fishery is accessible only by plane, gets zero outside pressure, and guests share the river with only one other lodge.

The Sustut is a classic Canadian wilderness steelhead river, unique in that it runs clear and fishable in all but the worst of weather, and boasts some of the largest steelhead on Earth. Add that to the fact that these monsters are willing to rise to a skated dry fly. It's no wonder why experts call it "the crown jewel of the Skeena".

Anglers with access to this portion of the fabulous Sustut may have the most legitimate shot at trophy-sized steelhead in Canada.

▲ 7 night/6 day fishing package $7,200-$7,400

skeena spey lodge

This steelhead destination is conveniently located just ten minutes from the Terrace airport, near the mouth of the famous Copper River, and there is no better place to intercept the giants that are headed to the upriver tributaries *(Kispiox, Babine, Sustut)* while they are still silver-bright and power-packed.

This section of the lower Skeena is prime steelhead real estate, and lies in the heart of the summer run from late July through the end of October.

▲ Custom packages are available.

Call The Fly Shop® for prices and dates

bulkley basecamp

Frontier Steelhead Experience has created the perfect mix of comfort, camp atmosphere, and expert staff at their permanent camp on a private tributary of one of the most exclusive rivers in the Skeena system.

Guests fish the Bulkley, mainstem of the Skeena, and the Morice during this action-packed week, and may add an optional helicopter flight to some of the most isolated stretches of steelhead water in all of British Columbia.

The camp is ultra-comfortable, with large, heated canvas wall tents, hot showers, flush toilets, and hearty home-cooked meals.

The fishing day is limited only by an angler's enthusiasm, with access to spectacular home water within a stone's throw of the tent flap. Every inch of the fishery has the potential to deliver bright fish and super-sized models of magnificent steelhead during all of September and October.

This is one of the premier steelhead destinations in the world of sportfishing. The camp is ideal for fly rodders who place more value on the quality of the fishing experience than the quality of the linen.

▲ 6 night/6 day fishing package $6,710

copper bay lodge

Winter steelhead fishing at its best, and a trip tailored for fishermen who thrill to target silver-bright, salt-fresh, wild steelhead on rivers that seldom see a fisherman.

These small Canadian coastal fisheries pull in dime-bright fish on every tide, and giants over 20 pounds are caught each season on these gorgeous little rainforest streams. Limited to only 4 anglers each week, Copper Bay guests feel as though they have the entire archipelago to themselves. And they often do.

▲ 7 night/6½ day fishing package $6,850

Nick Fasiano photo

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PROTECTIVE EXOSKELETON WITH **ZERO EXPOSED STITCHING.**

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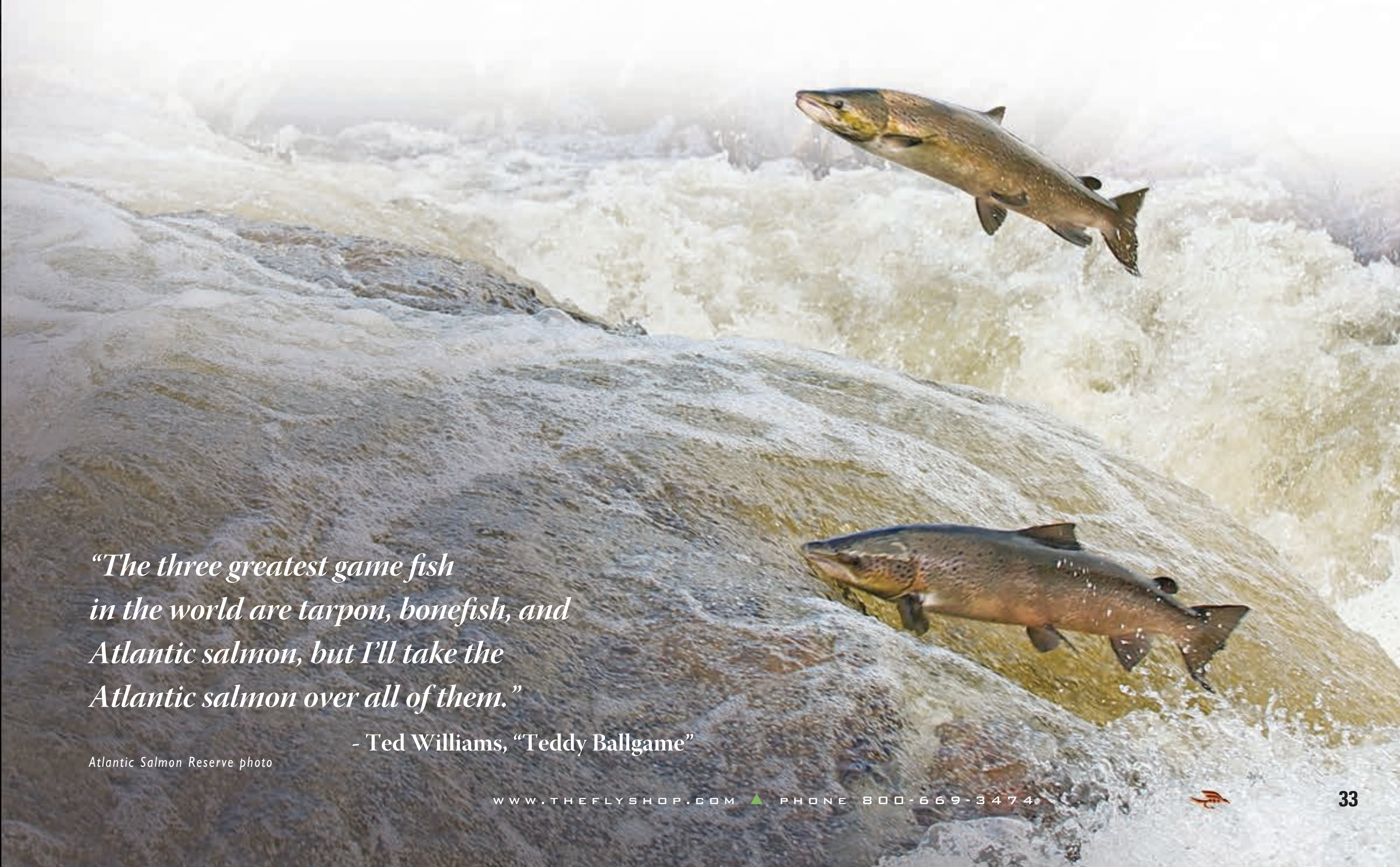
Hooking up *with* Atlantic Salmon

The thrill we get from a screaming reel and a jumping fish is primal, and an anthropologist could probably trace it all back to one fish, the Atlantic salmon. The species is both the foundation and nexus of the modern sport of fly fishing.

Even the name, Salmo salar, translates to "leaper" from Latin, and trying one's skill and luck against the salmon has been considered the sport of kings by Europeans since the first one picked up a stick, hung some silk off its end and tied chicken feather to bone or steel.

ATLANTIC SALMON are fly fishing's original trophy game fish, and they have influenced our sport more than any other fish that we have chased since. First, Atlantic salmon made us adapt trout tackle to become much stronger to deal with the king of fish. And when the water they lived in couldn't be covered with a single handed rod, they designed an entirely new style of fly fishing with 2 handed rods on the River Spey, quickly spreading this new method throughout the UK and beyond. Even the flies tied and used for Atlantic salmon became their own art form. Originally tied with the world's rarest feathers and the complexity to show off how affluent the angler was, the style now has the best tiers on earth twisting patterns that take them 10+ hours to tie, with hundreds of dollars in materials, just to sit in a shadowbox and never see the water. And the influence of these magical fish spread even beyond their own native range. We have adapted these styles, born on the salmon rivers of Europe, into all other anadromous fisheries. The steelheaders poached Atlantic salmon tactics decades ago, and you won't find many guys in Tierra Del Fuego fishing for sea-run browns much differently either…or the chinook anglers in Alaska. The contributions that the Atlantic salmon have made to the sport of fly fishing can not be overstated.



> *"The three greatest game fish in the world are tarpon, bonefish, and Atlantic salmon, but I'll take the Atlantic salmon over all of them."*
>
> - Ted Williams, "Teddy Ballgame"

Atlantic Salmon Reserve photo

The choice of Atlantic salmon rivers in
Norway

norwegian flyfishers club

Fly fishing on Norway's Gaula River is a classic European Atlantic salmon affair. Our choice in Norway, the Norwegian Flyfishers Club was founded over 30 years ago and has since maintained itself as the premiere outfitter on one of Norway's finest salmon rivers. They are now exclusive lease holders of over 13 kilometers of prime fishing beats…the best on the river! This rustic luxurious lodge was constructed on the Rogstadmoen farm, located approximately 8km upstream from the village of Støren, right in the heart of the Gaula's best salmon water. The lodge was completely remodeled in 2014 giving it all of the modern comforts of home.

We come for the fish though, and the Gaula boasts truly outstanding opportunities for enormous salmon. 20 pound fish are relatively common, 30 pounders are landed every year still, and every once in a while a true fish of a lifetime is landed of 40 pounds. Every cast you make into these fabled waters, you have a chance to tie into a fish that is truly exceptional.

▲ 7 night / 6 day packages at the NFC range in price, depending on the particular week. Please call for rates.

> ***"The Guala is an absolutely gorgeous river, seemingly designed specifically with the spey caster in mind. Every swing is perfect, and the fish that you will encounter are legendary."***
>
> **- Justin Miller**
> *Atlantic salmon, Steelhead, and Kamchatka Sales Specialist, The Fly Shop®*

Matt Harris photo

Atlantic salmon fishing in Iceland

ICELAND IS A MAGICAL place and one of the most beautiful countries you could ever imagine to swing a fly. The land of Fire and Ice is a wild, mesmerizing landscape of volcanoes, rock, waterfalls, geysers, ice fields and endless tundra, with Atlantic salmon rivers draining off of every inch of it. The island has three separate oceans and seas crashing against its shores. The cold waters of the Norwegian Sea flank its eastern edge, with the Arctic Ocean on its north and the Atlantic to the south. This stark and extreme landscape provides a stunning backdrop for adventurous anglers.

The Atlantic salmon runs of Iceland are extremely healthy. There may not be anywhere else in the world of Atlantic salmon with the fish counts that Iceland boasts in its rivers. They are not the biggest, but what they lack in top end size, they make up for in numbers. Many of the rivers have runs of grilse that number in the tens of thousands, with anglers getting countless opportunities a day at fish from about 4 to 8 pounds. That doesn't mean there are no big fish in Iceland, just not as many enormous fish like some of the rivers of the Kola, Norway or Eastern Canada. Many Icelandic rivers have a much larger average size of fish, with true adults reaching 20 pounds. Guitar legend Eric Clapton actually managed to land 2 fish of over 40 pounds, 2 years in a row…but that is extremely rare for Iceland.

We have many river options to choose from, based on when you are traveling and availability, including but not limited to the East and West Ranga, the Blanda, the Sog and the Stora-Laxa. Call today to discuss the best option for you!

▲ The salmon season in Iceland runs June 1 through September 15.

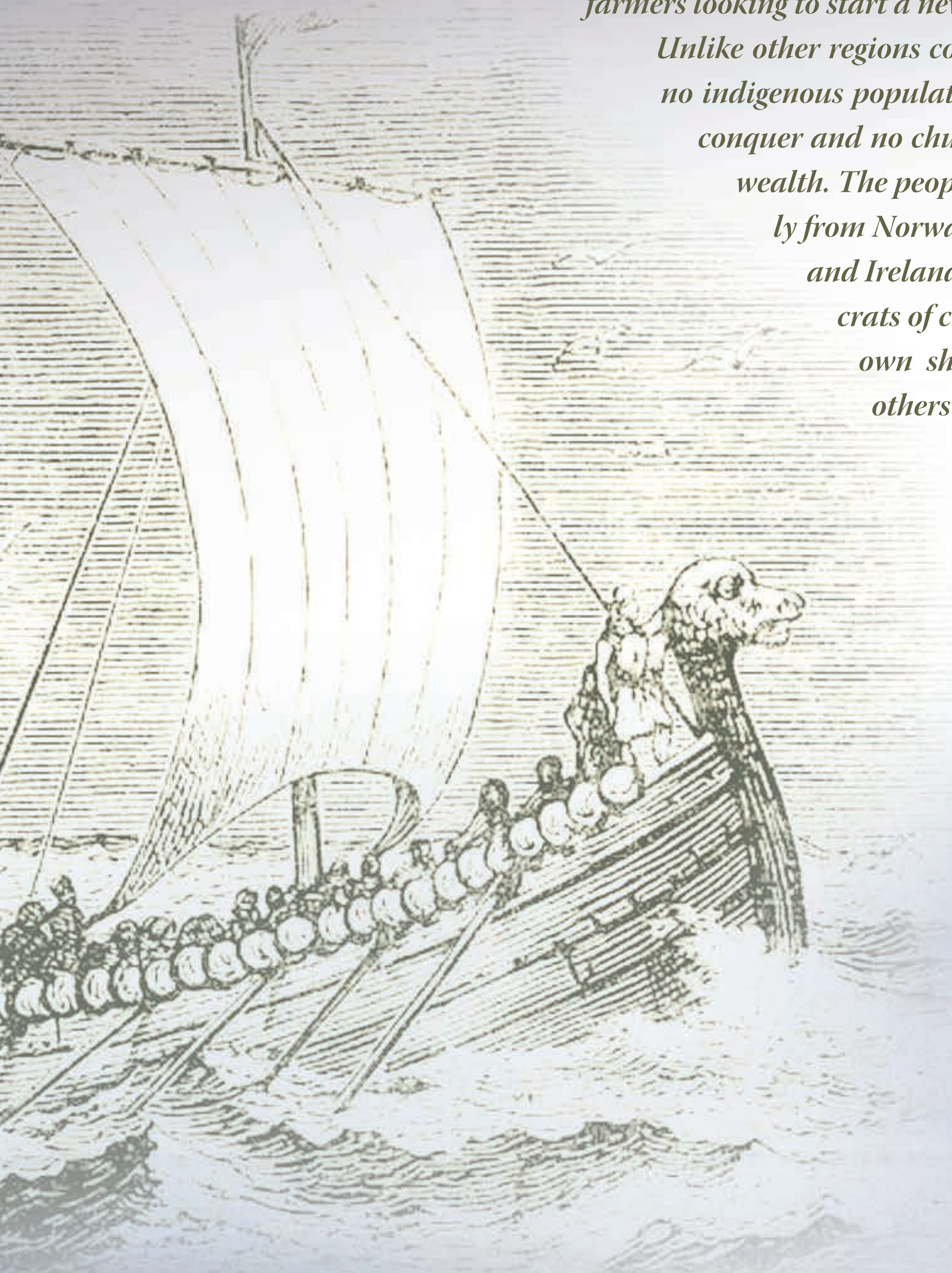
Justin Miller photo

Iceland

The Vikings found no one to conquer

THE MEDIEVAL SOURCES *on the discovery and settlement of Iceland frequently refer to the explorers as "Vikings" but, technically, they were not. The term "Viking" applies only to Scandinavian raiders, not to Scandinavians generally. Some of the men, and women, who settled Iceland may have previously been involved in Viking raids but they came to Iceland as farmers looking to start a new life in a new world.*

Unlike other regions colonized by the Vikings, Iceland had no indigenous population. In Iceland, there was no one to conquer and no churches or abbeys to sack for portable wealth. The people who settled the land came initially from Norway (later from Orkney, the Shetlands, and Ireland) and were led by Norwegian aristocrats of considerable wealth who owned their own ships and could entice or command others to come with them.



Trout fishing in Iceland

THE TROUT FISHING opportunities in Iceland are vast, and there may not be a more spectacularly beautiful place on Earth to target wild, native, resident brown trout. Iceland is the extreme Western border of the brown trout's native range. They do not exist naturally in Greenland or North America, but they are more than comfortable in the diverse environments of Iceland's innumerable lakes and streams. Many of these bodies of water also host a vibrant population of trophy Arctic char, as a bonus to the giant brown trout. These populations are usually also isolated and blocked off from the sea by some sort of barrier, be it an impassable waterfall or just a landlocked lake. If there is access to the sea, the rivers will likely have Atlantic salmon or sea-run browns instead. There are so many options to fish in the land of Fire and Ice, it is truly unbelievable, and each new landscape you discover will be more magnificent than the last.

the highlands

The East Rangá River is located in the south of Iceland about a 70-minute drive from Reykjavik and is one of the two most famous Atlantic Salmon rivers in Iceland. It is a remarkably consistent fishery, and has been rated first or second in the country for each of the past 10 years (*in terms of numbers of fish caught*).

The beautiful East Rangá, in the shadow of the legendary volcano, Mount Hekla, is described by natives as "possessing a beauty that gives fishermen energy and feeds their soul." It's a spectacular, traditional angling experience, fished with eight beats stretching over a 13-mile stretch of river, with each offering a variety of water, lots of space, and easy wading.

▲ Season is May 15 to 30 September, all summer!

lake thingvallavatn

Lake Thingvallavatn is the largest lake in Iceland, just over 32 square miles and located only 40 minutes from Reykjavík. The lake drains into the Atlantic Ocean in southwest Iceland via the Sog and after the bigger Ölfusá River. On its northern shore stands Thingvellir, the historical meeting place of the Althingi (*parliament*) from 930 until 1798. The lake lies along the North Atlantic Ridge, sitting where the North American and Eurasian tectonic plates separate from each other. It is also the home of the ice age brown trout that grow to enormous proportions.

The giant brown trout of Thingvallavatn have evolved in isolation since the last ice age. These legendary fish are on the bucket list of most anglers and this is the place you go to set your own personal record for brown trout. These trout average right around 8 pounds and these extraordinary fish can grow to over 30 lbs Specimens in excess of 20 lbs are frequently caught in peak fishing times. In Thingvallavatn, you never know what the next cast will bring, but chances are it will be big.

▲ Season is April 20th to September 15th

lake villingavatn

Despite being small, Lake Villingavatn is the home to some very large brown trout. It has been kept under the radar for years and has only been fished by a select few. From this lake, a small stream runs into Lake Thingvallavatn, connecting the two and allowing the Thingvallavatn trout to enter Villingavatn. Only 4 anglers are permitted to fish per day and Lake Villingavatn is fly-fishing only and catch and release.

Stealth is often needed here as the fish can be right up along the bank, and wading into the water is not advised. Casting is done along the banks and towards the weed lines where the big fish will be hunting. Streamers are most productive here as bait fish make up a large part of these giant brown trouts' diet. Fish will also take nymphs and dry flies in the right conditions, though.

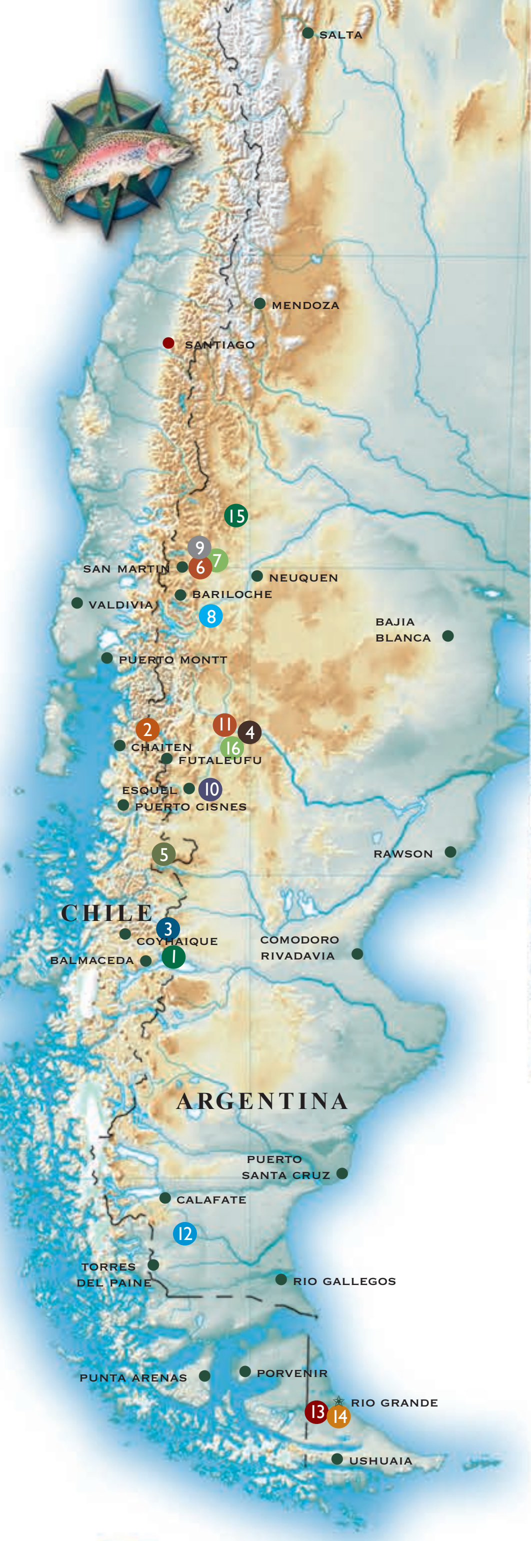
▲ Prime season is April 1st to September 30th

Highlands Lodge photo

Lake Thingvallvatn Lodge photo

THE FLY SHOP'S TOP CHOICES IN

Chile & Argentina



THE FLY SHOP® has been part of the cutting-edge of South American fly fishing for more than 40 years and our experienced travel staff has spent a collective lifetime exploring Patagonia.

Our first forays to Chile, four decades ago, took us to the historic Lake District near Puerto Montt, made famous by Joe Brooks and Ernie Schweibert in the 1960's. From there we expanded our search for great fishing south beyond the Strait of Magellan to Tierra del Fuego. Now, with over forty years of experience under our belt, we're pretty confident that The Fly Shop® staff knows more about fly fishing in Latin America than any other angling travel agent in the business.

We've chosen the lodges, guides, and the outfitters we work with carefully and have done our homework, so you don't have to.

Many of the outfitters we work with are those same pioneers who opened the Latin American fly fishing frontier. Often, we were there to help them. Together we brought the first float plane to Chile and explored the uncharted angling of its rugged Patagonia coastline for rainbows and sea trout. The Fly Shop® was instrumental in helping develop the great fishing of Aisen, far south of Puerto Montt. And most veteran Patagonia fly fishermen would agree that The Fly Shop® portfolio of lodges, guides, and outfitters is the finest in all of South America.

We continue to visit most destinations each year and keep our finger on the pulse, remaining intimately familiar not only with each of the exclusive operations we represent, but all of the other fishing destinations around the globe.

We've been proving for forty years that there's no one better prepared or more capable of helping plan a successful fly fishing holiday in Chile or Argentina than the travel experts at The Fly Shop®.

South America's Best

We've been to every one of these places and worked with most of these lodges, outfitters and guides for decades. They represent a terrific cross-section of the Patagonia fly fishing geography, a broad range of price options and a wide variety of different angling experiences.

Each and every one of the lodges and outfitters we represent has been fully vetted by our staff. They're, hands down, the top-rated sportfishing destinations in all of Patagonia.

① **El Saltamontes**
Terrific January, February, and March dry fly action at Chile's most famous trout fishing lodge

② **Patagonian BaseCamp**
This deluxe Aisen Lodge has something for every angler, and a different river every day

③ **Trouters Patagonia**
Veteran guide operation and lodge in Chile's angling Mecca

④ **Los Alerces National Park**
Argentina's top-rated public trout fishery

⑤ **La Posada de los Farios**
Solitary angling in the Cisnes drainage

⑥ **Tipiliuke**
Superb, private angling on the Chimehuin

⑦ **Estancia San Huberto**
Miles and miles of the Malleo River

⑧ **Estancia Arroyo Verde**
Luxury, private trout fishing on the Traful

⑨ **Collon Cura Lodge**
Gateway to drifting the Collon Cura River

⑩ **Arroyo Pescado**
Argentina's absolute best spring creek

⑪ **Patagonia River Guides**
The top guide service and number one lodge on the east side of the Andes

⑫ **Estancia Laguna Verde**
Monster rainbows at the world famous Jurassic Lake

⑬ **Estancia Maria Behety Lodge**
The best value on the #1 sea trout river in the world

⑭ **La Villa de Maria Behety**
Argentina's most luxurious fly fishing lodge in the heart of the magnificent Rio Grande

⑮ **Estancia Pilolil**
Jorge Trucco's top-flight trout fishing destination

⑯ **Las Pampas Lodge**
Patagonia spring creek fishing at its best.

Give us a call and let us help you with your fly fishing reservations. The help doesn't cost a dime.

In fact, none of the fishing lodge packages we offer can be found anywhere else in the world for less.

We've been there

There are few places on the Patagonia map where we haven't left our tracks; few rivers and streams where we haven't wet a line, and few of the lodges our team of Latin America experts haven't visited and evaluated. We do the work so you don't have to.

Signature Destinations carry our total endorsement. It's The Fly Shop's promise of satisfaction and our iron-clad guarantee that the quality of the experience and angling is going to be exactly as advertised.

'Signature Destinations' have been thoroughly vetted and considered by our experts to meet the highest standard in the industry. Ours.

SANTA CRUZ PROVINCE IN SOUTHERN ARGENTINA

Jurassic Rainbows

Estancia Laguna Verde is a sprawling rancho in the southern Argentina pampas whose fences surround tens of miles of river and a lake with a fish-perfect environment so rich that it grow the largest rainbow trout on Earth!

Laguna Verde photo

The size & number of these Argentine rainbows can't be exaggerated!

FOR SHEER SIZE and numbers of trophy rainbow trout, there is no argument that Lago Strobel *(Jurassic Lake)* in southern Argentina is in a class by itself. Jumbo rainbows in this fantastic fishery average 6 to 8 pounds, and often tip the scales well above fifteen pounds. The Fly Shop® has sent six of our team there in the past decade and we all agree, this spot consistently delivers the most exciting stillwater and some of the best stream fishing on Earth for huge trout. There's no exaggeration that could accurately describe the fishing or amplify the size and strength of these rainbows. Everything you've read or heard about the place is probably true. These fish are bull-strong, very aggressive, and attack streamers, nymphs and surface flies. They'll smoke your drag and expose parts of your backing that have never seen the light of day.

The nickname Jurassic Trout was lifted from the title of a popular movie and used to describe the jumbo-sized fish found in this isolated lake and a river just north of the Strait of Magellan. It's an appropriate nickname, if only because the fish are not native to this part of the world and, like the movie, these rainbows reach prehistoric, mammoth proportions.

Though their ancestors were stocked, these trout aren't triploids, sterilized, or genetically altered. They are the progeny of fish first stocked in these lakes, streams, and spring creeks nearly 30 years ago. They are the rainbows brought to Bariloche in the 30's from the McCloud River *(located just a few miles north of The Fly Shop®)* and also used to stock New Zealand.Their smolt were introduced to Lago Strobel in 1989 and met a near-perfect environment; no predators, an ideal altitude, a temperate climate, a rich food source, and ice cold water blended with a high alkali content. It all coalesced to form Mother Nature's own unique natural Trout Growth Hormone and the size and number of these fish just skyrocketed.

The naturally occurring menu items include swarms of Gammaridean scud so abundant that the mega-rainbows swim like open-mouthed whales gorging themselves on krill. This unusually protein-rich diet results in rainbows that often grow to epic dimensions, occasionally tipping the scales above 20 pounds.

With an abundance of food, well-oxygenated water, and remote location, this lake and stream are the perfect environment for ridiculously huge and incredibly strong trout with no apparent limit to their size or strength. All that protein translates into beautifully-proportioned, acrobatic trout in sizes and numbers unequalled elsewhere.

estancia laguna verde *(Jurassic lake)*

Every aspect of the cozy, tastefully-decorated, ten-person lodge is a source of pride with the owners. Guides are terrific, the private rooms are very comfortable, and the non-stop trophy trout action is accented by delicious meals at the end of every day. Dinners and cocktail hour are graced with fine Argentine varietals.

Estancia Laguna Verde guides pride themselves on their skills.

- 7 night/6 day package $6,500
- *Round trip vehicle transfers from Calafate are included in these packages*

The Monster Sea Run Brown Trout *of* Tierra del Fuego

HOOKING UP with a big sea run brown is an experience that's hard to describe. Most fish grab a nymph or streamer on the swing and it just stops. It is seldom a violent strike, and your first thought is a snag. But the Rio Grande is something akin to a giant underwater gravel bar with very few snags. The bottom's perfect to wade and there are few rocks or boulders big enough to trip on, so it's rare to hang up. Then, while your angling hard drive is processing this, the "snag" shakes its head. It's time to set the hook and plant your feet, 'cause the bell has just rung in this fight.

While angling success has some correlation with skills and conditions, most fly fishermen on the Rio Grande land between 3 and 6 fish every day, occasionally hooking twice that many. In fact, every cast on the Rio Grande has the potential to hook a true river giant, and the odds are high that many fly rodders at one of our Rio Grande lodges will land one or more world-class trophies during their one-week stay.

Most anglers dream of hooking, and landing a big trout and no other river on Earth makes those dreams happen more often than the Rio Grande.

There are an estimated 2,432 magnificent trophy brown trout in every ultra-productive mile of the broad and shallow Rio Grande. An average of 700 in every pool. Still, these fish aren't dumb, and will test every skill in the quiver of an Atlantic Salmon fisherman, steelhead junkie or trout angler.

Our two Rio Grande lodges offer access to the very best water and every one of the top beats on the Rio Grande. They've got the help of the finest cadre of native guides ever assembled in Patagonia, absolutely superb accommodations, and it all adds up to one of the most sought after fly fishing experiences in the Americas.

Pairs of anglers depart each morning by vehicle accompanied by expert, well-trained, bi-lingual Argentine guides to their assigned beats after a light breakfast. They'll fish hard until midday and return to the lodge for a hearty lunch, a traditional siesta, and a chance to rest up for the evening outing. The most productive fishing is in the late evening, and dozens of fish will usually be rolling on the surface. That always exciting outing is followed by cocktails, appetizers and the promise of a well-earned, delicious late evening dinner.

Val Atkinson photo

Rio Grande monster browns average over nine pounds. One fish in five is over fifteen and one in forty will be a real "puerco del rio" and tip the scales above twenty pounds. The average Rio Grande brown is the fish of a lifetime anywhere else in the world!

Rio Grande anglers quickly adjust to a split-shift daily fishing schedule that begins at dawn and ends with the fading light. Guides are rotated daily, usually in action-packed 4-hour sessions on one or two beats. The most distant pools on the river are close and never more than a half hour drive.

The shallow river is easy to wade. It can be crossed comfortably between pools. Long-distance casting skills aren't necessary. Single-handed rods still remain popular, but spey fanatics have found the Rio Grande experience irresistible and the long rods cover the water methodically and make dealing with the notorious Tierra del Fuego winds effortless.

Don't be misled by the tiered pricing system of the lodges. The weather is consistent from mid-January to late March, and the angling results are uniform from the start of the season to the finish line.

SIZE DOES MATTER, and the prospect of hooking and landing fish this size attracts serious fly rodders from all over the world. Most veterans agree there are few events in the world of fly fishing that are as challenging, rewarding, and productive as the sea run brown trout fishing found on the Rio Grande. It's an opportunity to challenge the fish of a lifetime.

Several times, every day of the season!

The Estancias & Geography of the Rio Grande

THE MENENDEZ FAMILY estancias once stretched from the Atlantic to the Pacific and bridged the Strait of Magellan. At the turn of the 20th century all the lands now bordering the Rio Grande *(in both Chile and Argentina)* fell under the aegis of one man, Jose Menendez. His estancia, Maria Behety, had a library, school, bakery, chapel, blacksmith shop, and everything necessary to be self-sufficient before towns, airports, and even ferries and roads reached the island of Tierra del Fuego.

Today, the great estancias this once land-rich patriarch created have been diminished. Properties have been sold, divided by descendants, bisected by national borders, and broken by government conflict. There are now 6 large estancias occupying the *(southern)* opposite bank of the Rio Grande. Still, what remains of the fabulous Estancia Maria Behety is astounding.

Estancia Maria Behety is a working ranch with fences surrounding hundreds of square miles of grazing land and tens of thousands of sheep. The estancia flanks the entire northern shoreline of the Rio Grande, stretching from its mouth upriver an astonishing 32 miles towards the Chilean border. It parallels the finest holding water and fishing on the Rio Grande. Angling upriver is modified by progressively shallower pools, marginal spawning habitat, and fewer fish.

This magnificent Tierra del Fuego estancia is home to the only two lodges on the northern bank of the Rio Grande. Combined, La Villa de Estancia Maria Behety and Estancia Maria Behety Lodge, host 18 guests *(6 in one, 12 in the other)*.

On the opposite riverbank there are four fishing lodges licensed by the government. When filled to capacity, they accommodate as many as 30 clients. It sounds like a crowd, but actually translates to fewer than one angler per river mile.

Estancia Maria Behety shares their river frontage *(50 kilometers, and 102 pools)* with all the lodges located on the southern shoreline, alternating pools daily in a friendly, well-organized rotation that insures a private, quality experience for everyone.

The two Maria Behety lodges boast that, with alternating halves of the Rio Grande available every day, their fly fishing guests have access to every inch of what the other lodges claim are the best pools on the river, far fewer anglers per river mile, and a great deal more daily destination options and diversity.

The Two Estancia Maria Behety Fly Fishing Lodges

la villa de estancia maria behety

Majestically situated near the entrance to the huge estancia, La Villa de Estancia Maria Behety was once regarded as among the most beautiful "farm" mansions in South America. It was here the legend of Rio Grande sea trout began in the 50's and 60's when the historic home of Charlie Menendez was filled with fly fishing legends Joe Brooks, Mel Krieger, Jorge Donovan, Ernie Schweibert and Bebe Enchorena. Gutted by fire in the late 70's, La Villa was painstakingly restored by local craftsmen under the watchful eye of Jose Menendez's grandson, Alejandro Menendez y Behety. Its renovation included every modern amenity imaginable and qualifies La Villa de Estancia Maria Behety as one of the most deluxe fly fishing lodges in all of South America.

La Villa's six weekly guests enjoy single occupancy accommodations and share guides and access to the entire estancia angling. Fine meals are paired with Argentine varietals selected from a magnificent 7,000-bottle wine cellar. There's an after angling hours billiard and card room and the open bar is stocked with wine and liquor.

Though luxurious, La Villa maintains its focus on angling excellence and a commitment to the resource. It is considered the top sea trout fishing experience on Earth, a fact only enhanced by its accommodations.

▲ 7 night/6 day package $7,000 - $9,500

La Villa package includes luxury single accommodations for each guest.
Not included is tackle, gratuity, and fishing license.

estancia maria behety lodge

This modern, cozy lodge overlooks the river nearly 10 miles upstream from the entrance to the estancia. The mid-estancia location positions angling guests within quick and easy striking distance of the very best pools of the Rio Grande. Fishermen have convenient access to every pool on the 32 miles of river bordering the estancia, and the finest trophy sea trout fishing on Earth.

The very spacious lodge hosts a maximum of a dozen fly fishermen and was designed with every necessary amenity. Each guest enjoys queen-size beds, a wonderful open bar, fine food, and a club-like, informal atmosphere. The talented guides know the river intimately and have a marvelous work ethic.

▲ 7 night/6 day package $6,000 - $8,500 double occupancy

Limited to 12 guests. Single occupancy option is available
Not included is tackle, gratuity, and fishing license.

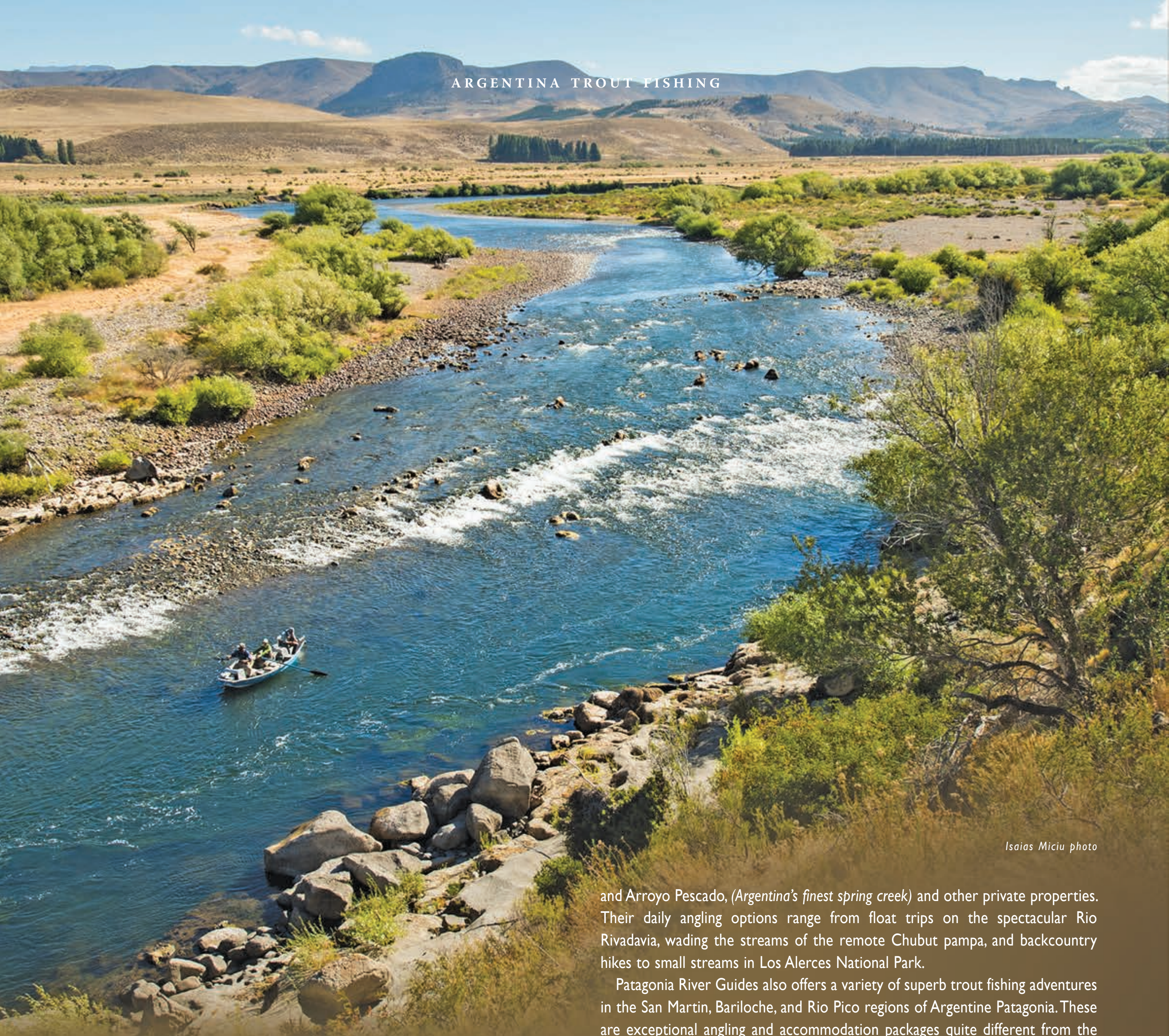
Val Atkinson photo

MARIA BEHETY
LODGE
RIO GRANDE
TIERRA DEL FUEGO

M Wolfe photo

Guests at the two lodges on the Estancia Maria Behety enjoy access to every one of the Rio Grande's most famous river pools and an All-Star team of fly-savvy, bi-lingual Argentine guides with no equal in Tierra del Fuego.

John G Sherman photo



Isaias Miciu photo

Patagonia River Guides

THESE FORMER MONTANA outfitters have built a terrific Patagonia reputation by applying Yankee fly fishing know-how and a nose-to-the-grindstone work ethic to the off-the-beaten-path rivers and streams of the distant, fish-rich Esquel region of Argentina. Over the past decade, they've corralled the finest local talent, applied some polish, and developed what is one of the top guide services and lodges in all of Argentine Patagonia.

From their flagship lodge near the Welsh community of Trevelin, the Patagonia River Guides team is within easy striking distance of Los Alerces National Park and every one of the great fisheries in the Esquel region. Their diverse angling menu includes a variety of spectacular public rivers and streams as well as exclusive access to several private properties.

They specialize in guiding on small, out-of-the-way and hard-to-get places and are the recognized experts on the fish-rich Rio Grande below Lago Menendez and Arroyo Pescado, *(Argentina's finest spring creek)* and other private properties. Their daily angling options range from float trips on the spectacular Rio Rivadavia, wading the streams of the remote Chubut pampa, and backcountry hikes to small streams in Los Alerces National Park.

Patagonia River Guides also offers a variety of superb trout fishing adventures in the San Martin, Bariloche, and Rio Pico regions of Argentine Patagonia. These are exceptional angling and accommodation packages quite different from the Trevelin Lodge experience. Multi-region 5 to 14 night itineraries incorporating the best of Argentine Patagonia can be custom-tailored to include a combination of various estancia stays, overnight and multi-night float trips and a long list of options that can be tailored to any anglers schedule and interests.

Working with you, the estancias' availability, and the Patagonia River Guide schedule we'll custom tailor a package that fits your calendar, wallet, interests, and skill level. You'll save time and there's no less expensive or better way to plan your Patagonia fly fishing holiday.

patagonia river guides

The peak season *(November through mid-April)* packages include all the necessary transfers, superb guides, meals, accommodations, and even quality equipment (*waders, rods, reels*) and flies are provided.

- Full week Trevelin Lodge stays during peak season $8,900 per week
- Tres Valles Lodge in Rio Pico $7,700 per week
- *Packages combining visits to estancias, hotels in San Martin de los Andes and Bariloche, and/or overnight float trips (from one to three days) can be tailored to your schedule and interests.*
- $5,950 to $7,700 per week. *Shorter and longer stays are available.*

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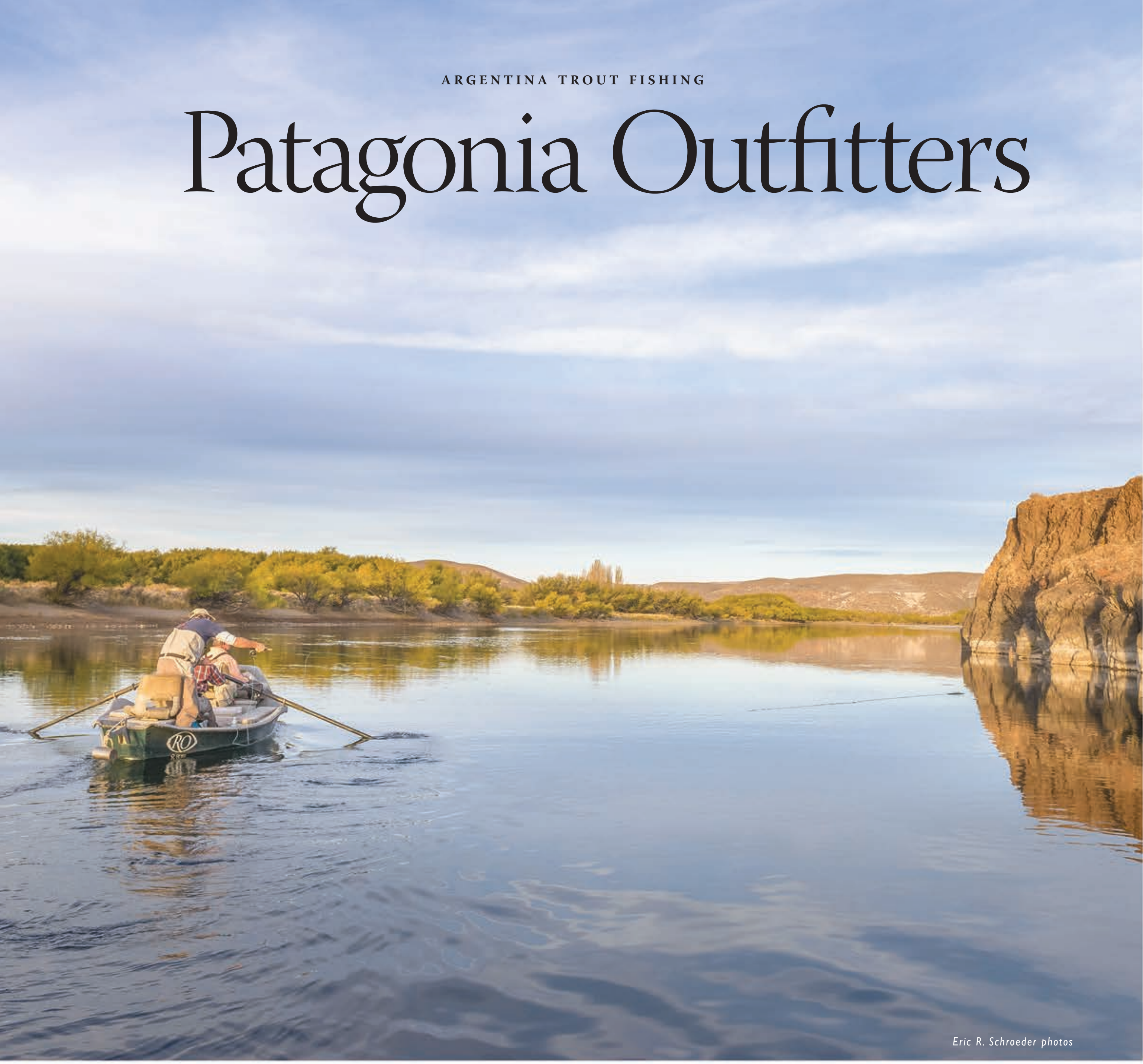
ARGENTINA TROUT FISHING

Patagonia Outfitters


Eric R. Schroeder photos

PATAGONIA OUTFITTERS was founded in 1978 by local Argentine fly fishing legend Jorge Trucco. Over the past 40+ years, Jorge and the Patagonia Outfitters team not only discovered many of the now-famous fisheries in northern Patagonia, they have continued to develop and perfect the trout fishing experience in Argentina.

Patagonia Outfitters is a full service outfitter, offering custom, à la carte fly fishing packages throughout the many fish-filled rivers, streams, and lakes within striking distance of both San Martin de los Andes and Bariloche. They work with a handful of the finest lodges and private estancias and guides in the region, and work closely with every guest to custom-tailor a unique Patagonia holiday, whether it's 4 days or 2 weeks, whether you are a hard core angler or if you are traveling with your family and want to combine exciting trout fishing with great non fishing activities, Patagonia Outfitters and The Fly Shop can tailor a unique and diverse fly fishing holiday for you.

The idea behind the à la carte fishing itineraries is to combine two, three or four estancias to create a varied fly fishing holiday. For example, for a one week trip you can arrange four nights lodging at Estancia Pilolil and then transfer to Collon Cura Lodge and fish another three days. Or four nights at Estancia San Huberto and three nights at Tres Rios. Give us a call and we will help you custom tailor a trip that fits your wants and needs.

Tipiliuke Lodge photo

Estancia San Huberto photo

tipiliuke lodge is conveniently located a mere 15 minutes from the town of San Martin de los Andes, on the 50,000 acre Estancia Cerro de los Pinos. The Larminat family founded the estancia in 1909, and continue to operate the historic working cattle ranch today.

Fishing from Tipiliuke incorporates more than 17 miles of incredible trout streams, including private access to 9 miles of the famous Chimehuin River and 4 miles of the Quilquihue River.

This five-star lodge is well-known for its distinguished service, accommodations, and cuisine. It is a perfect destination for non-fishing guests as well, offering horseback riding, hiking, and close to town for shopping and other local sightseeing. Tipiliuke accommodates up to sixteen guests, with a maximum of twelve anglers, in well-appointed rooms with en-suite baths.

estancia san huberto is owned by the Olsen family, and operated as a 25,000 acre farm-to-table experience. Their gardens are extensive, and their free-range beef and lamb are absolutely incredible, pairing perfectly with a local Argentine Malbec. Guests here often return just for the food!

Of course, the fishing from San Huberto is also world-class, with 25 miles of private access on the best stretches of the Malleo River. The Malleo is mostly spring-fed, with crystal clear waters perfect for sight fishing, reliable hatches, and dry fly fishing opportunities. It is the perfect-sized river for walk and wade fishing, a great location for novice, intermediate, or advanced anglers.

San Huberto features 10 guest rooms, and can accommodate up to 16 guests, with a maximum of 12 anglers. It's a great destination for non-anglers. Guests here enjoy plenty of room to relax. A favorite "hang-out" is the upstairs fireplace, perfect for evening pisco-sours and stories of rising trout from the day's fishing.

Isaias Miciu photo

estancia arroyo verde is located near the town of Bariloche, where the Traful River runs through a secluded valley of incredible wind-and-water sculpted rock formations, breath-taking views of the crystal clear Lake Traful with the backdrop of the white-capped Andes and lush forests. The estancia has a deep history, family-owned and operated by the Lariviere family for over 35 years.

Guests staying at Estancia Arroyo Verde enjoy exclusive access to the Traful River, first made famous by the pioneers of Patagonia fly fishing: Joe Brooks, Mel Krieger, Ernest Schwiebert, and Jorge Trucco. The Traful is unique, flowing between two lakes and receiving runs of giant brown and rainbow trout as well as landlocked Atlantic salmon. This is perhaps the best place in northern Argentina to catch true trophy-sized trout.

The main lodge is defined by graceful, elegant accommodations and sophisticated service punctuated by a 5-star dining experience, featuring a sun-lounge, bar, living-room and dining-room. There are six spacious, comfortable and well-appointed guest rooms, each with a private en suite bath.

estancia quemquemtreu is a historic, working ranch and encompasses nearly 200,000 acres, one of the largest estancias in Argentina

Fortunately, the estancia is home to nearly as many trout as cattle. Guests staying at Quemquemtreu have exclusive access to over 30 miles of the very productive Collon Cura River, as well as rare access to the small, intimate Quemquemtreu Creek. The Collon Cura has some wonderfully scenic float trips, as well as excellent wade-fishing opportunities. All manner of fly fishing techniques works well here, including dry flies, nymphs, and streamers.

The lodge at Estancia Quemquemtreu can accommodate up to 12 anglers at a time. There are 5 comfortable double rooms located in the main lodge, which also features a great sitting room focused around a huge rock fireplace, perfect for sharing fishing yarns at the end of a great day. The nearby "Hunter's Lodge" is just a short stroll away and has an additional 4 guest rooms.

tres rio lodge sits on a scenic bluff offering spectacular panoramic views of both the Chimehuin and Collon Cura Rivers, which converge at the base just below the lodge.

Tres Rios Lodge boasts private access to 10 miles of what most agree to be the best, most productive waters of the Chimehuin River. These sections can be floated, while there is also plenty of great wade-fishing opportunities that are only available to guests of Tres Rios Lodge. In addition, the lodge enables access to an additional 20 miles of the Collon Cura River, and several lagunas that hold some seriously large trout.

The lodge accommodates up to 8 guests, in 4 spacious, double-occupancy rooms. There is a comfortable living room and bar area, and the outside fire-pit is famous for its legendary asados.

▲ Each trip with Patagonia Outfitters is fully customizable, with rates varying depending on length of stay and which estancias or lodges are incorporated into your itinerary. Pricing is usually from $730 - $1,150 per person, per night.

Patagonia Outfitters

ESTANCIA PILOLIL'S FISHING program is the brainchild of Jorge Trucco, a legend and one of the most respected names in Argentine fly fishing. Jorge has assembled a talented, seasoned crew of professional guides, lodge staff and chefs that are committed to offering a world-class experience.

Estancia Pilolil is a private 23,230-acre working ranch that borders 10 miles of the west bank of the Aluminé River, one of the most prolific trout rivers in Argentina, Patagonia. Additionally, the ranch features a private fishery, 19 kilometers (*14.4 miles*) of the Nahuel Mapi Spring Creek, a gem of a fishery. This is not just another fishing lodge; this is one of the finest fly fishing retreats in all Patagonia, featuring exceptional lodging, cuisine, service, staff, equipment, guides and of course, fishing!

From the estancia, guests have quick and easy access to a variety of different fisheries. Outside of the two on the estancia, the Aluminé River and Nahuel Mapi Spring Creek, options include the Lower Malleo, Quillen, Malalco, Pulmari, Collon Cura and the Chimehuin. As well, Estancia Pilolil can be easily combined with other regional fly fishing estancias, including San Huberto, Tipiliuke, Tres Rios, Arroyo Verde and Quemquemtreu.

Fishing can be both floating and/or wading, and all forms of fly fishing will apply, from dries to nymphs, to wets, to streamers. This is a fly fishing program suitable for anyone.

The Aluminé River flows southward out of iconic Lake Aluminé for approximately 100 miles before it turns into the Collon Cura River. It flows from north to south along the foothills of the Andes, keeping about a 30-mile distance from the Chilean border.

It is an amazing river surrounded by breathtaking landscapes, unique vegetation, incredible rock formations and spectacular wildlife. Those animals include condors, eagles, falcons, hawks – all kinds of birds of prey – quail, diverse waterfowl, red deer, wild boars, pumas, guanacos, foxes, and you'll sometimes even see red stags.

estancia pilolil offers sophisticated and world-class lodging with a capacity of 10 guests, in 6 rooms and with 5 private bathrooms. For non-angling companions, horseback riding and trekking as well as sightseeing and shopping excursions can be easily arranged due to its proximity to Junín de los Andes, San Martín de los Andes, and the town of Aluminé.

- $1,080 per night; $7,560 per week, double occupancy – *all inclusive*
- *Single rates (private room, boat and guide) are available on request*
- *Single (private) guide and room, add $180 per night, per angler*

collon cura lodge is centrally located on the banks of the Collon Cura River, on a 70,000 acre estancia owned by Ted Turner. The estancia provides exclusive access to the best spots for floating this prolific river, flowing through a landscape of huge open vistas and expansive panoramas reminiscent of the American West.

Willow lined banks, sand cliffs and rolling hills shape the Collon Cura River's unique and attractive landscape, and create ideal conditions for incredible populations of large rainbows and browns.

The quaint, cozy lodge accommodates up to eight guests in four double rooms, each with its own private, en suite bathroom. There is a wonderful "great room", popular for guests gathering after a fish-filled day on the water to share a drink, some hors d'oeuvres, and plenty of stories. A beautiful, separate dining room is a mere minute's walk away, allowing for serene evening after-dinner strolls beneath the star-filled Patagonian sky. The dining at Collon Cura Lodge is an experience all its own, with classic Argentine cuisine complemented by fine local wines.

- Full week, all inclusive *(shorter and longer stays available)* $5,950 per week
  $900/night for shorter stays
- *Single occupancy, privately guided angling options, and non-angling rates available. The season begins in November and continues through mid-April.*

Isaias Miciu photos

Las Pampas Lodge

LOCATED IN THE Chubut Province of Central Patagonia, Las Pampas lodge is in the "heart" of the Rio Pico area in the Chubut Region of Argentina. The lodge is located beyond the well-traveled roads and just outside the tiny border town of Aldea Las Pampas. The lodge is surrounded by countless spring creeks, rivers, streams, and lakes, much of which is located on private estancias that see little or no pressure from other anglers.

This is amazing country, and little has changed from the days that Butch Cassidy roamed the mountains and valleys. There are a multitude of small spring creeks and freestone streams to walk and wade here, most of which are home to aggressive brown and rainbow trout. Some streams have big fish, while others feature huge populations of nice trout. Expect large foam dries on the end of your leader, and memorable surface takes. Also available are a series of mountain lakes home to trophy brown trout and rainbows, many of which love to take huge dries from the surface. If you like big trout in small water with no-one else around, this place is for you.

The Rio Pico watershed is home to nearly a dozen spring creeks, all of which ultimately feed into the Pico. Varying greatly in size, length, depth, and current speed, each creek presents its own unique set of angling challenges. For lovers of small and at times technical waters, these often-overlooked gems have a great deal to offer. Most of these intimate spring creeks hold surprising numbers of good-sized rainbows and browns that are all too willing to rise to a well-presented dry fly.

las pampas lodge is a beautiful European-style log and stone structure featuring a main common area with a guest lounge, dining room, and bar that is flanked by four spacious double occupancy guest rooms, all with private bathrooms.

Each guest room opens onto a cobblestone veranda overlooking the surrounding Andes mountainous landscape. The inviting main room has a central fireplace surrounded by a semicircle of plush built-in lounge chairs where guests can gather each evening for cocktails and share their daily adventures. The lodge has every amenity you'd expect from a classic trout lodge without being over-the-top.

▲ 7 night/6 day package $6,300 ▲ 10 night/9 day package $8,000

Transfers in/out of Esquel (ESQ) Airport to the lodge, lodging, all food and beverages; English-speaking, fully-equipped guides, and assistant guides; daily transfers to fishing areas; and all terminal tackle (leaders, tippet, flies), private waters fees, and fishing license.

Las Pampas Lodge photos

Chile

Trout stocked hundreds of years ago... today they flourish as if they were a native species

SUMMER IN Chile begins in December. Trees have dropped their blossoms and warm summer weather lands in Patagonia before Christmas presents have been opened.

Opening day in Chile is in November, traditionally a time when North American fishermen are preoccupied with family and holidays. The landscape is ablaze with a mind-baffling wildflower display, known locally as "Chocho" (*Chilean word for "Lupine Season*"). Fish are on the surface, targeting caddis and mayflies, as well as blizzard hatches of small creamy moths.

Trout season in Chilean Patagonia swings into high gear by the New Year, and continues until leaves turn crimson and drop with the arrival of fall in late April. The summers of Patagonia are abbreviated, much like those of Montana and Wyoming. Warm days often begin with cool mornings and can be punctuated by sudden thunderstorms.

Their January is our July. Spring snowmelt is gone, the weather's reliable temperatures are pleasant, and the hatches are predictable.

By the first of February trout begin to key on the caddis hatches and hoppers, stag beetles and other terrestrials that dominate mid-summer fly fishing action. Probably because of the weather, January and February are the most popular months to travel to and fish Patagonia.

April is the beginning of fall in the Southern Hemisphere. Like the Rockies, the weather is less reliable in the fall; days are shorter and temperatures are cooler. Dress for a full range of weather possibilities and plan on some of the best mayfly hatches (*especially bllue wing olives*) as well as epic streamer fishing.

Marcos Furer photo

COYHAIQUE, CHILE

Trouters Patagonia

Michael Caranci photo

This team of fly fishing savvy natives is the top independent guide service in Chile!

TROUTERS PATAGONIA is a team of seasoned, talented, fly fishing-savvy Chilean guides operating under the expert, watchful eye of Nico Gonzalez. These native fly fishing shepherds know their local streams, rivers and spring creeks "like rings on their fingers!" They use top quality 4WD vehicles to get to isolated rivers, and state-of-the-art rafts to float water that's too wide and deep to wade.

Their boating skills, personalities, and dawn-to-dark work ethic have established Nico Gonzalez and his expert team of Chilean guides as the most popular outfit on the west side of the Andes.

The Fly Shop® has been fishing with Nico for nearly three decades, since he was apprenticed to the best of the sophisticated Yankee guides we brought to Chile, during days when there were few experienced native guides to run the first lodges. Nico learned those lessons well and the student has become the master.

Nico was proud to be among the first native Chilenos to become a full-fledged, hard-core fly fishing bum while he developed sophisticated guide skills and helped pioneer many of the now famous local streams and rivers that are a part of the Chilean fly fishing lexicon.

Trouters Patagonia is part of a new and highly-qualified generation of fly fishing guides that approach every day with energy, enthusiasm, and a passion for the sport. These young men add a cultural element to the pleasure of fishing the rivers and streams of Chile that makes it special beyond quality angling. They add an important accent mark to instruction and a true Chilean spice and flavor to their interactions.

It certainly doesn't hurt that they know every short-cut, back road, riffle, pool, and where every trout is swimming within a hundred miles.

WE DISCOVERED COYHAIQUE, Chile, for ourselves in 1980, after first wetting our line in the Lake District, Puyuhuapi, and trying to walk in the footsteps of Joe Brooks and other pioneers. It was an enlightening trip that firmly established the Aisen Region in our minds as the center of Chile's fishing.

trouters patagonia

Guests are met at the Balmaceda airport and accommodated in style and comfort at Nico's lodge "La Reserva" on the outskirts of Coyhaique. Nothing is left to chance with this team of professionals. Anglers are met early each morning and enjoy any one of a vast array of fly fishing options ranging from wading small, intimate creeks to floating the top rivers in this part of the world "Montana style". Guides are superb and this is truly a cultural experience.

▲ 4 night/3 day package	$2,750
▲ 5 night/4 day package	3,425
▲ 6 night/5 day package	4,100
▲ 7 night/6 day package	4,795

Transfers, transportation, meals, license, beverages, wine, and guided fishing are included in the package.

CHILE

Patagonian BaseCamp

The ideal spot for anglers seeking diversity, visually spectacular scenery, solitude, and a rewarding, hard-core South American fly fishing adventure!

The scenic location, the quality of the angling, and the variety of fly fishing separates Patagonian BaseCamp from all of Chile's other trout fishing lodges!

PATAGONIAN BASECAMP is in the seldom-visited Palena Province, and reached by way of a scenic charter flight from Puerto Montt. This place rates as one of the best-in-class fly fishing experiences in the Southern Hemisphere!

It is a remarkable adventure, run by a true professional with superb lodging, amazing scenery, excellent guides, and fine fly fishing.

Patagonian BaseCamp lodge is tucked away in a remote valley midway between the Pacific coastline and the Andes. Not enough can be said about the location. It is one of the most stunning and isolated locations in Chile.

It is surrounded by rainforest, snow-capped mountains and there are very few people in the region. Angling pressure is all but non-existent on the spider-web of rivers and streams within easy driving distance of the lodge. All of it is ideal habitat for a mix of trophy rainbows and muscle-bound browns.

Further separating Patagonian BaseCamp from most other Chilean and Argentine lodges is the variety of the regional angling. There are several different jet boat trips up river canyons to fishing that can't otherwise be reached except on foot or horseback, as well as daily floats on streams.

It's everything you imagine, and more!

Drift trips are full day affairs in nearby mountain valley rivers, and can be extended to include an overnight stay at one of two camps built on sections of wilderness rivers and seen by only a few guests each season.

Adventurous, physically-fit anglers are invited to hike the nearby creek tributaries or plan horseback trips to high lakes and even more distant and seldom-seen streams.

And when guests return in the evening, tired of catching fish, they'll be arriving at one of the finest lodges on either side of the Andes.

This is the perfect spot for the angler seeking diversity, solitude, and a hard-core South American fly fishing adventure.

Patagonian BaseCamp photo

Val Atkinson photos

THE BASECAMP LODGE in the midst of the evergreen, beech, and bamboo forest that makes up most of the Province of Palena is hardly a camp, but it is a base, perfectly situated in the middle of some of Chile's finest, though seldom-seen fishing. Built a decade ago for fishermen on the shoreline of the Rio Palena, the lodge is a stone's throw from the deck to excellent, after-hours fishing, and features nearly every imaginable comfort. Guests enjoy sauna, hot tub, private rooms with full baths, therapeutic massages, and laundry service.

The lodge reflects the uncompromising standards of the owners, Marcel and Carolina Sijnesael, their passion for flyfishing, and talent in the kitchen and garden. Each sumptuous dinner is served with the best of Argentine and Chilean wines and the open bar is always fully stocked.

THE SPIRIT OF OUTDOOR adventure in every angler will definitely be satiated with Patagonian BaseCamp's two optional out-camps; one on the Palena, and another on the Figueroa. Fishermen and their guides arrive at each campsite at the end of a full day of fishing and floating through remote river canyons that even most natives to the region have never seen.

EL ESCONDIDO Over the past 10 years Marcel Sijnesael has been acquiring a vast amount of land in the hidden valley of Rio Escondido. The Escondido River flows freely from a lake which is itself surrounded by Queulat National Park, a massive 154,093-hectares tract of untouched wilderness.

The Rio Escondido Valley is tucked away in an isolated corner of Chilean Patagonia, close to the Argentina border, and its waters are wild and virtually untouched. The trout you will stalk here will have never seen a fly before and are very cooperative. Access to these waters can be challenging, but those who are physically fit, and have a measure of adventure in their souls will be rewarded. Limited to 4 anglers per week.

This Signature
Destination
is available
only through
The Fly Shop®
and our agents

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The Fly Shop
SINCE 1978
DESTINATION

patagonian basecamp

This location rates as one of the most scenic and isolated in Chile. 2022/2023 pricing:

▲ 7 night/6 day	$7,495
▲ 10 night/9 day	10,995
▲ 11 night/10 day	11,995
▲ 7 night/6 day Escondido	$6,495

Log onto our website or call us for more detailed information, available dates or reservations.

CHILE

El Saltamontes

Trout season in Chile shifts into high gear by the New Year. It's a perfect time for dry fly addicts to dig out their passport, pack their box of hopper patterns, load up their rods, and head for the Rio Nireguao!

THE NAME OF THE LODGE means, in Spanish, the grasshopper, and the ranch's grasslands are thick with them by New Year's Day. Hoppers double in size as the abbreviated Patagonia summer progresses and, when the surrounding meadows begin to dry up, those hordes of terrestrials move closer and closer to the moist river's edge. In a stiff breeze they'll often carpet the water and trigger a trout feeding frenzy. Fish simply lie in wait below miles of river lined with grassy cutbanks, ready to ambush this floating terrestrial feast.

Home water on this 5,000-acre breathtaking ranch is the Nireguao, one of the top fly fishing rivers in Chile, and rated among the most consistent trout fisheries in all of South America. El Saltamontes also boasts a number of private spring creeks, several oxbow lagunas packed with thick-bodied browns and rainbows and easy access to several private lakes. Fly rodders often begin or end their fishing day near the lodge, and with plenty of great fly fishing water nearby, anglers seldom repeat a stream or river experience during their visit.

There are no other fishing lodges in the "Valley of the Moon" and it's nearly an hour to the nearest street light. The isolation helps insure privacy and there is no need to rise early to get to the stream before a crowd. Four-wheel drive vehicles and specially designed float equipment provide the tools necessary to access rugged, remote canyon stretches of local rivers only a handful of lodge guests and other anglers visit each season.

Most fishing is close to the lodge and there's very little wasted motion or much time spent traveling.

The summer days are long in this part of Chile and the after-hours fishing in the nearby river is always an option.

El Saltamontes guests enjoy great fishing, super accommodations, incomparable after-hours hospitality and it's one of the top places in Patagonia for non-fishing companions!

Val Atkinson photos

Michael Caronci photo

THE RIVERSIDE LODGE at El Saltamontes is surrounded by a guest complex of well-appointed duplex cabañas. Each room enjoys a spectacular view of the river valley and the nearby Andes. The days are long and the sun comes up early and sets late in the Patagonia summer. From the comfort of their guest suite, anglers often find the after-hours temptation of trout-filled lagunas and the trout rising in the nearby Nireguao River too much to resist.

For those who love to walk and wade small to modest-sized streams, stalking the aggressive trout laying in their pools and undercut banks, El Saltamontes is like a dream. The park-like setting of the huge private ranch is spectacular, and ensures that lodge guests will have many miles of water all to themselves, ranging from tiny spring creeks tumbling off nearby hills to larger meadow streams, all of which are full of gorgeously-marked, terrestrial-eating wild brown and rainbow trout.

Earl Harper photo

There is a large menu of angling options and each day's fishing is tailored to mirror individual guest's interests. While wading the Rio Nireguao is high on most visitors itineraries, this breathtaking ranch also boasts a number of private spring creeks and other smaller streams off the ranch, and lagunas harboring large browns in excess of 24 inches.

SIGNATURE
The Fly Shop
SINCE 1978
DESTINATION

A Signature Destination available only through The Fly Shop® and our network of angling agents and professional fly shops.

EL SALTAMONTES "home water", the Rio Nireguao, begins in high desert meadows, and flows clear and undisturbed through a few other neighboring cattle ranches before arriving at the El Saltamontes fenceline. The river has been renowned for trophy browns, though it now also harbors a bunch of thick-bodied rainbow trout.

NON-ANGLERS El Saltamontes limits the number of their fishing guests to 10, yet has space for 14, inviting single occupancy options and a place for non-fishing companions interested in the other options not normally available at fly fishing lodges.

Guests interested in this ranch's superb horseback riding and equestrian options will find it a first-class, Chilean outdoor experience highlighted by outstanding animals, few fences, and daylong rides through stunning scenery.

Earl Harper photo

el saltamontes guests are met at the regional airport in Balmaceda and delivered back there 7 days later, after a visit which includes everything but tackle. There are no extras or surprises. Transfers, licenses, meals, guides, accommodations, and every soda, beer, mixed drink, and glass of fine wine are part of the package.

Terrific fishing begins in January and lasts through March.

▲ 7 nights/6 day fishing package	$5,995
▲ 7 nights/6 day fishing package (*single room*)	$6,495

NEW ZEALAND

Fly Fishing Down Under

SERIOUS ANGLERS who thrill to sight fishing for trophy trout and live for the challenge of big rainbow and brown trout in relative solitude find the attraction of New Zealand irresistible. And it's the perfect spot for anglers and their friends to enjoy more than just great fly fishing.

It's estimated fewer than 3,100 foreign fishermen go to New Zealand just to fish. They'll visit Milford Sound, Nelson, Queenstown, Taupo, Rotorua and more than one of the magnificent New Zealand national parks, where the scenery is spectacular and the people rate as the friendliest on the planet.

If fly fishing is going to be a significant part of the New Zealand holiday you are considering, we can help. The Fly Shop® works directly with a few of the finest New Zealand fishing lodges and hand-in-hand with The Best of New Zealand Flyfishing, one of Air New Zealand's largest agents in the US.

With their help, our travelers enjoy the lowest airfares *(lower than the internet or consolidators)*, and other travel benefits, as well as the added value of nearly 8 decades of combined fly fishing and travel experience on both islands of New Zealand.

Together, our combined team of New Zealand experts can help make your Down Under dream trip come true.

We can help arrange for lodges or guides, farm stays, bed & breakfasts, fine hotels, car rentals, economic international flights, golf, wineries, and we'll hook you up with terrific fly fishing while you're there.

All of New Zealand's shoreline surrounds terrific fly fishing, and it's easy for our staff to build you a multi-faceted holiday. Whether you are thinking about an extended holiday that features some fly fishing but might include flying or driving the length of the two islands *(roughly the size of California)*, spending time in the wine country near Hawkes Bay, or a hard-core angling trip that focuses on trophy trout fishing, our team can help you put it together.

New Zealand trout fishing is near the top of everyone's bucket list and we've got the handle on the very best fly fishing spots to be found on the North and South Islands in the land of the Kiwis!

LOCATED IN the middle of the Southern Hemisphere, New Zealand's two islands are long and narrow. They stretch almost a thousand miles from North to South and feature nearly 10,000 miles of coastal shoreline. The topography of the South Island is spectacular – a massive mountain range which divides the island's east and west coasts and volcanic peaks that often reach 10,000 feet or higher. Less mountainous, but not to be outdone, the North Island scenery is often breathtaking.

Owen River Lodge photo

New Zealand is famous for its crystal clear spring creeks and trout-infested rivers, the average size of both the rainbows and brown trout, the hiking and heli-fishing opportunities, and the extraordinary hospitality of the wonderful people that live in this part of the world.

We've been there and couldn't agree more that every bit of the reputation is well-deserved.

Most of the itineraries The Fly Shop® crafts for our clientele are custom-tailored to their interests. Many, if not all, allow for an opportunity to do more than fish. Whether it's hiking, golf, sea kayaking, sight-seeing, or wine tasting, the angling traveler should include as much as possible in their visit to New Zealand. We're here to help.

cedar lodge is New Zealand's top fishing event. Eleven Experience and their Kiwi guides easily access more than a dozen regional rivers. The lodge enjoys the exclusive helicopter access license to the great angling inside Aspiring National Park.

- 7 night/6 day, Heli-flights included $10,850 USD
- *Shorter stays are available*

owen river lodge offers terrific walk-and-wade trips as well as heli-fishing access to 30 nearby wilderness streams that are within easy striking distance of their South Island doorstep.

- 7 night/6 day fishing package $9,800 NZD

poronui lodge deserves its reputation as the North Island's finest angling and sporting resort. With 25 miles of private rivers, easy access to vast private Maori estates, heli-access to some of the most prized fly fishing in New Zealand, and a choice of accommodations ranging from safari-type outcamps to luxurious cottages, this is a world-class recreation retreat for discerning travelers.

- 7 night/6 day fishing package $11,200 NZD

Best of New Zealand photo

Andrew Burr photo

CENTRAL ASIA – MONGOLIA

Taimen, Trout & Excitement in Mongolia

The steppes of Mongolia host more than great fishing trips. Far more than you can imagine!

MONGOLIA IS THE least densely populated country in the world. It is roughly the size of Alaska, yet outside of the main capitol city of Ulaanbaatar it is a vast wilderness, sparsely populated by nomads who subsist, living off the land tending their herds of cows, sheep, goats, yaks, and camels. There's no property ownership outside of the capitol city. No fences, very few roads, and those that do exist are dirt. What few people you do encounter once you leave the city will likely be on horseback.

This ancient realm is both politically and geographically isolated. Mongolia is bordered by Russia to the north and China to the south, a precarious political position. But the Altai Mountains to the west and the Gobi Desert to the south have kept Mongolia out of the spotlight and off the beaten path for centuries.

Mongolia is a cultural odyssey to a land forgotten by time. It is truly an unforgettable, epic voyage to a mysterious foreign country. To most, it is simply recognized as the fabled homeland of the fierce nomad warrior Genghis Khan. But from the moment you set foot in this incredible place, you realize the people are friendly, pro-American, and truly wonderful.

In Mongolia only the sport fish are fierce.

This adventure is beyond any mere fishing trip. Though it's the spectacular fishing and the sheer majesty of the landscape that often draws people to this unique world, it is usually the smiling faces and the native people that travelers remember most.

To the first-time visitor, Mongolia immediately appears to be a wild, unbroken land reminiscent of Montana and the American West before settlement. Northern Mongolia is a place of snowcapped mountains, vast golden forests of birch, aspen, larch and alder, and meadows filled with wildflowers. It is home to some of the world's largest remaining tracts of true wilderness and is rich with clear, free-flowing rivers that have carved their way through dramatic canyons and wind through majestic valleys. Each day's float is a wilderness experience that is a step beyond a visit to Yellowstone or Yosemite.

And of course there are the taimen, the largest salmonid on Earth.

Pat Pendergast photo

Michael Caranci photo

Michael Caranci photo

GETTING THERE takes some time. Westerners arrive by way of Seoul, and usually spend a few days in Mongolia's interesting and historic capitol, Ulaanbaatar, exploring and decompressing before taking a short, early morning flight to the frontier steppes and a drive to the first of a series of comfortable riverside camps, where each two anglers share spacious, well-furnished, wood stove-heated gers *(traditional yurt)*. Camps have hot showers, plenty of good food, an unforgettable Mongol staff that moves with the group, and a fly-savvy river team combining educated, English-speaking Mongols with a nucleus of very talented international and native guides.

Most fishing is done Montana-style from a raft or drift boat and anglers are usually armed with single-handed eight or nine weight rods with enough muscle to toss large streamers or surface flies to any likely holding water or structure.

The same pristine water that harbors monster taimen also has a large population of grayling, exotic Amur trout, toothy pike and lenok, an ancient strain of Siberian trout with golden bodies, bright red bands and black spots. These smaller fish headline the taimen menu and seem, at times, to be everywhere along the shoreline. Fishing for them with lightweight fly rods is an added highlight to this adventure.

Taimen are reclusive, but fear nothing. These distinctly colored salmonids have a near-fluorescent orange-red tail that often reveals their location in the clear freestone pocket water. Sight fishing for these magnificent finned predators while wading the shoreline or floating the river is an experience seldom equalled in fresh water.

taimen do feed on the surface and create a heart-stopping explosion when they attack

These huge fish are ultra-aggressive, and opportunistic. They'll lie in ambush behind structure, deep pools or fast current, then act like freshwater barracuda when any potential food source violates their territory. Taimen are pure, giant predators, and anything in the water is on their diet. Understandably, the most productive flies are large streamers, but taimen do feed on the surface and create a heart-stopping explosion when they attack a skated or gurgling surface fly.

This fly fishing adventure targets a unique species of fish seldom found elsewhere and takes place in a part of the world most have only read about in books. These are trips that will disconnect you from your normal life and leave you and your companions with a lifetime of memories.

mongolia

The Mongolian fishing season runs from mid-June through late October. Packages include airport reception, all transfers, 2 hotel nights in Ulaanbaatar, domestic plane flights, 7 or 8 nights in comfortable Mongolian riverside ger camps, and a spectacular 6 or 7 full day fishing float trip through some of the most intriguing water and most beautiful wilderness terrain imaginable. Package prices include a mandatory $500 conservation fee.

▲ All-inclusive packages	$6,950
▲ All-inclusive two-week packages	$11,950

The Fly Shop® has been part of the cutting edge of jungle angling for more than two decades.

We're the exclusive agent for the #1 Peacock Bass destination in the Amazon and The Fly Shop® is, arguably, the most experienced and knowledgeable fly fishing travel agent in the entire jungle world.

Daniel Coimbra photo

Rumble *in the* Jungle

The Amazon Rainforest is huge, blanketing 9 South American nations with 390 billion trees. Its river system springs to life in the Andes, gathering strength from a spiderweb of tributaries in Colombia, Bolivia and Peru before massing in Brazil. This huge river network eventually embraces 25% of all the freshwater on the face of the Earth and has more species of fish than there are in the entire Atlantic Ocean. This is the beating heart of jungle fly fishing.

But don't forget about the jungle fisheries on the other side of the pond, in the vast wilderness of Africa! It is another world over there! Predictably, the equatorial belt in Africa is very similar in many regards to that of South America, but the 2 ecosystem's have evolved completely isolated from each other, with totally different flora and fauna...and fish!

It is small wonder then, that jungle rivers have become the last frontier in fly fishing.

The jungle is where it's happening!

Greg Maxwell photo

Val Atkinson photo

Brian O'Keefe photo

Arapaima *fly fishing's largest freshwater target*

THESE ARE MONSTER FISH that often weigh hundreds of pounds and are protected in all but two fisheries in Brazil and Guyana. Sight fishing for arapaima, the largest scaled freshwater fish in the world *(up to 9´ long and 440 pounds)* is way up near the top of the list of new jungle angling experiences. These colorful, powerful monsters cruise close to the surface as singles, in pairs, or even schools. If they're there, you'll see them splashing on the surface, and searching these lakes, channels and rivers is much like hunting flats and mangroves for rolling tarpon.

When mature, they're big and have no known predators. When hooked they go ballistic, obviously pissed that anything would challenge their alpha role. More than just big, arapaima are strong and their battle is usually punctuated by repeated jumps and powerful runs.

Mamirauá is a huge Brazilian wetland and flooded forest in the heart of the Amazon. This maze of interconnected lakes and lagoons is a World Heritage Site, a national treasure where a vibrant population of arapaima share their jungle habitat with arowana, tambaqui, peacock bass, red-bellied piranha, and oscars. All of them will attack a fly with abandon and add up to a recipe for a diverse and exciting angling holiday.

In our first and second exploratory season giant arapaima have been landed up to 330 pounds. The total number of juveniles tipping the scales between 20 to 60 pounds was impressive, and every angler this past season scored and scored big.

There's daily flight service to Manaus and this package marries perfectly with the charter flight trips to the Rio Marié, which stop briefly on their return flight to Manaus for re-fueling at the regional airport.

pirarucu lodge

Mamirauá is the largest Arapaima reserve in the world, covering more than 2.5 million acres. It is home to an indigenous Indian tribe which allows limited catch and release sportfishing in their huge government protected wetland. With the help of professional fisheries biologists the natives also monitor and harvest a small portion of the wild population of arapaima, which has become a favorite of international urban fish gourmets.

The Pirarucu floating lodge is located in the heart of a spiderweb of beautiful, breathtaking creek-connected lagoons. Pirarucu is rated as one of the top five birding locations in the Amazon and fly fishing guests share comfortable lodge accommodations with an interesting multinational collection of eco-tourists and bird watchers.

September through November is the best time to sample the fishing in this vast Amazon reserve. Fly fishing guides are surprisingly good, arapaima fishing is action-packed, and the native Indian staff add a fascinating cultural accent. Guests are serenaded to sleep each night by the sounds of forest and awakened early each morning by a cacophony of the feathered inhabitants of the surrounding refuge and National Parkland.

Floatplane flights returning to Manaus from the Rio Marié re-fuel near Pirarucu, making these easy and convenient packages to combine.

▲ Fishing package $3,399-$6,350 2023 rate
Not included is the Native fee

Michael Caranci photo

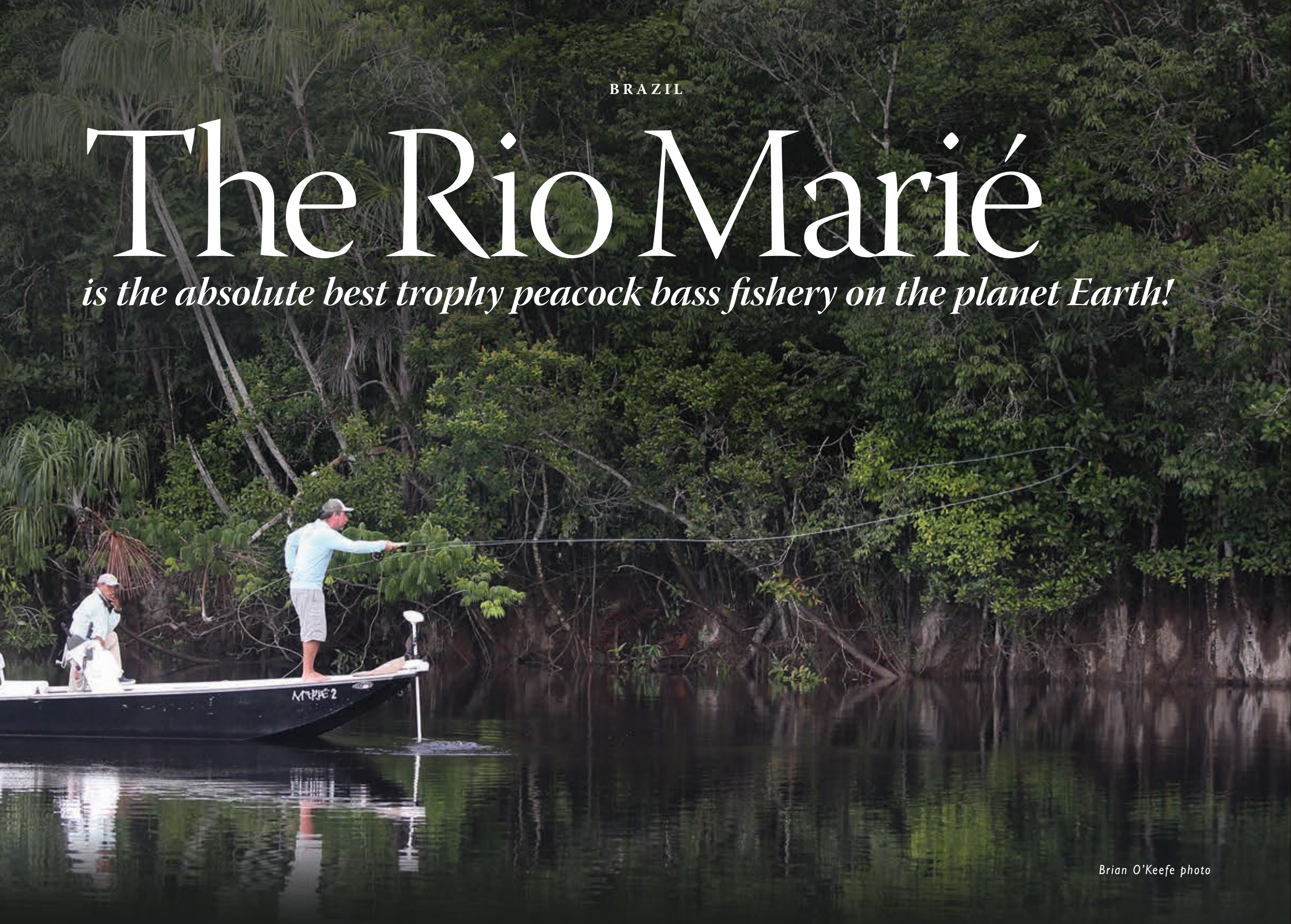
MARIÉ
RIO DE GIGANTES

Camilo Duarte photo

BRAZIL

The Rio Marié

is the absolute best trophy peacock bass fishery on the planet Earth!



Brian O'Keefe photo

Eight seasons of fly fishing have proven Brazil's Institute of Resources correct. The Rio Marié is home to more double-digit, tackle-busting, trophy peacock bass, than any other river in the entire Amazon.

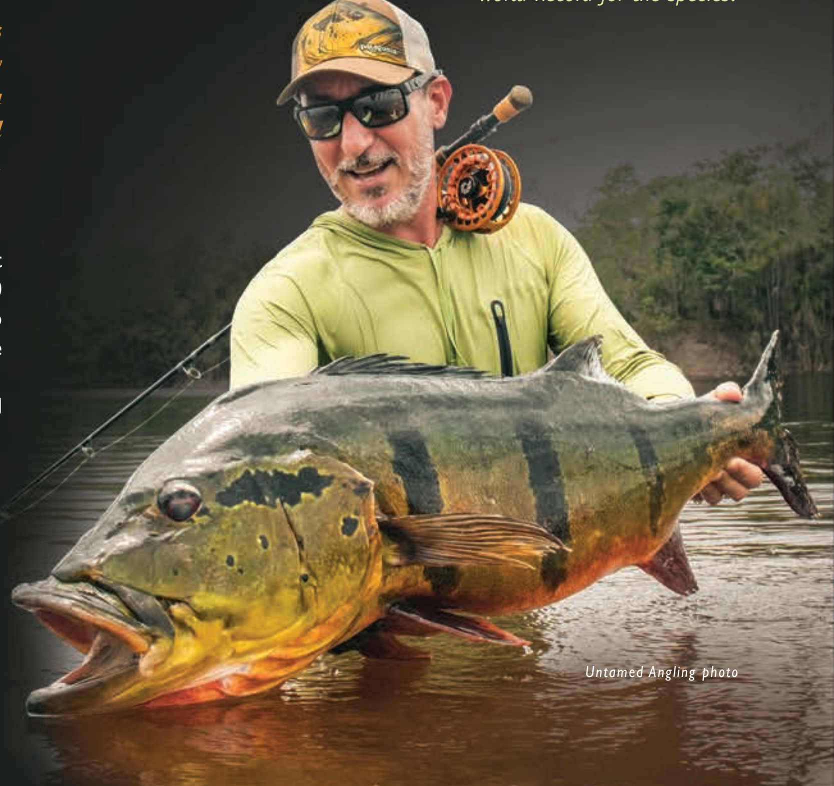
Now, the entire 500 miles of the number one peacock bass fishery in the world is managed as a catch-and-release only fishery and is one of the largest fishing preserves in South America. The decision marked a red-letter day for our sport, and one of the most exciting additions to fly fishing in the 21st century.

THE HEADWATERS of the Marié begin in the jungle foothills that separate Brazil from Colombia. Then it flows southeast for more than 800 kilometers through an impenetrable rainforest before joining the Rio Negro. There are no roads or airstrips in this part of the jungle, and the only way to get to the fishing on the Marié is by boat or floatplane.

The fishery first opened in June of 2014 when local natives collaborated with the Brazilian government and professional biologists to protect both the resource and the interests of the indigenous tribe

It is hard to argue against the fact that the Rio Marié is the finest trophy peacock bass fishery on the planet Earth. Proof is that nearly half of those who have fished the Marié in the eight seasons since the natives of the Marié opened the door to our anglers have hooked and landed a monster peacock bass over 20-pounds.

Rodrigo Salles of Untamed Angling with his 91cm (35.8″) speckled peacock bass while fishing in the midday heat of spring in the Amazon. With this fish, Rodrigo tied the IGFA All-Tackle Length World Record for the species!



Untamed Angling photo

In the world of peacock bass, size really matters!

What sets the Marié apart from all other jungle rivers is the prospect of catching a truly giant peacock bass. More fish over 20 pounds come out of the Marié than the next top 5 peacock fisheries combined, including multiple world records, and what was the largest peacock bass ever caught on a fly rod at the time, a massive 28.5lbs, 89cm long giant landed by Florian Kaiser in 2017! Rodrigo Salles topped it for another world record length peacock of 91cm in the fall of 2021!

THE LARGEST, and therefore most sought-after peacock bass species is the C. temensis. Unmolested, they'll grow slowly to double-digit size and as they put on pounds, they become exponentially and unbelievably stronger. The difference between small peacock bass and the mega-models found in a few places like the Marié is the difference between Conan O'Brien and Conor McGregor. Giant peacock bass don't fight, they wage war! And it's a fact that no other river on Earth has more of these big fish, or even comes close to the average size of the peacock bass found in the Marié.

But, trophy hunting is not the only thing that the Rio Marie' has to offer. Smaller varieties of these cichlids are also available, for the angler that wants to get their rod bent a little more often. Borboletas or butterfly peacock bass average in size from about 2 to 8 pounds and are a common occurrence in the Marié and other Amazon rivers. They're great fighters, loads of fun, and you can rack up some numbers when you find them in schools.

Further setting the Rio Marie' apart from other operations is exclusive access to over 500 miles of catch-and-release river. It is a unique experience even in Brazil, where other rivers are often shared by half a dozen motherships and fishing groups.

Anglers on the Marié fish in pairs, departing the mothership each morning in swift outboard skiffs (*powered by 90-hp outboards and equipped with electric motors, GPS units, and poling platforms*) custom-crafted for fly fishing the Amazon. They're accompanied by one member of the greatest team of English-speaking, fly-savvy experts in all of Brazil and a Marié native, whose presence and intimate knowledge of both the river and the jungle adds much to the experience.

At the end of each action-packed day, Marié anglers rendezvous with the deluxe mothership, The Untamed Amazon, for appetizers, cocktails, fish tales, and superb meals paired with fine wines.

The deluxe, mobile mothership is constantly on the move, often covering over 100 miles of the Marie' over the course of the week. With each new anchorage, anglers will get to target fresh water full of giant peacock bass that have been properly rested.

The only way to the Marié is by floatplane

From the moment you step onto the floatplane in Manaus to when you bid farewell to the Rio Marié it is an absolutely wonderful experience. It is a safe, exciting, exotic, fish-filled adventure, well within most angler's skill sets for a fish and a fight that you and your friends will never forget.

Each of these weekly angling adventures begins in Manaus with a comfortable, scenic, 4 hour, 500-mile, amphibious Cessna Grand Caravan flight above the rainforest. A huge portion of the package cost, float planes are the only sensible way to rendezvous to a location this remote, on the river with the constantly moving, luxurious mothership, the Untamed Amazon.

Brian O'Keefe photos

rio marié

The 2023 rate includes overnight accommodations in Manaus prior to the round trip flight to the river. The operation offers exceptional standards of service, with professional English-speaking fly fishing guides, state-of-the-art fishing skiffs, first-class mothership, superb meals and all beverages and wines.

▲ 7-day package $7,600 September through November

Not included is the $700 per person mandatory trespass fee required by the Marié Native Association.

This Signature Destination is available exclusively through The Fly Shop® and our professional angling agent network.

BRAZIL

Kendjam

This startling tributary of theAmazon River is very unique in nature. It's a crystal-clear fly fishing jungle jackpot loaded with exotic varieties of Peacock Bass that share the pools, riffles, and runs with eight other red-hot river targets!

THE IRIRI RIVER is a shallow, 800-mile long, fast moving freestone river that courses over a granite and boulder streambed and runs absolutely transparent. It's a one-of-a-kind Brazilian fishery filled with fly-friendly gamefish, including seldom-seen and less frequently caught varieties of spectacularly colored peacock bass, wolf fish, matrinxa, pacu, bicuda, payara, and more. The Iriri is a wet-wading, sight-casting fly fishing experience in what amounts to an enormous, clear tropical aquarium in the middle of the Amazon basin.

Ken Morrish photo

Kendjam Lodge is typical of other Untamed Angling destinations, reverently carved out of the jungle, situated on a beach overlooking a magnificent view of the fishery, staffed by a combination of indigenous guides and Brazilian angling experts. The food is superb, and the comfortable accommodations are a stark contrast to the surrounding rainforest.

Pat Ford photo

The next frontier in jungle angling!

Getting to Kendjam is a near all-day affair. Anglers usually arrive in Manaus the night preceding the early morning, 3-hour charter flight to the remote grass airstrip in the heart of the Kayapo's 26 million-acre territory. From there it's another 3-4 hours downriver in modern cayugas to the lodge, a journey involving several portages past terraced rapids.

No other anglers share the crystal-clear fishery, and nobody enters the Kayapo territory without being invited.

The Kayapo's miraculous emergence into the 21st century with their land, culture, and largely subsistence based lifestyle is one of the indigenous culture's greatest success stories. Kendjam was a deliberate move by the tribe to break away from an existing band in an effort to create a village free of the influence of alcohol and the timber and gold industries. Their connection to tradition and the natural world upon which they depend remains continuous and unbroken. Their chief, Pukatire, was quoted as saying, "We only need the white man for three things. Eyeglasses, flip-flops, and flashlights."

Part of the Kendjam experience involves some amazing fishing. It also incorporates a fascinating and rewarding cultural facet that rates beyond exceptional. This is a great jungle angling adventure tailored for traveling anglers interested in more than just great jungle angling.

▲ 8 night/6 day fishing package **$6,625**

Packages are all-inclusive from Manaus, Brazil
The short season begins in July and ends in late September
Not included is a $560 Native Community fee

Kendjam is lots more than just another fishing trip!

KENDJAM exploratory trips were originally a reconnaissance mission to acquaint Untamed Angling with the Iriri watershed, give anglers a view of the potential of the Kendjam fishery, help us become familiar with the social customs of the Kendjam community, and introduce the Kayapo warriors to sportfishing.

What we've found is a spectacular fly fishing-friendly fishery, full of exotic tackle busters most anglers have never seen before, and a rich, rewarding cultural experience that is far more than we expected.

THE KAYAPO NATIVES are more than the Kendjam landlords. They're a tiny nation of educated warriors that have beaten back ranchers, gold miners, missionaries, fur trappers, and even famously stopped a dam. They've been the subject of several National Geographic documentaries and become famous for their guile, independence, and efforts to preserve their indigenous way of life.

Now the tribes of the Iriri have joined forces in an effort to take control of their future in a logical way, by capitalizing on their own skills, fishing knowledge, expanding their universe to slowly include capitalism, free enterprise, and exploit interest from "the outside world" in a sustainable way by catching fish in their river and then letting them go!

Part of traditional Kayapó guest orientation includes mandatory body painting. Usually they decorate only your face. It's durable but not indelible. The ink is made from local plants, and charcoal.

It lasts only a few weeks. But the memories will last a lifetime.

Kayapos are indirectly world-famous. Their connectivity to their natural world and the fierceness with which they defend it has been the subject of several documentaries and inspired the film Avatar.

The mandatory Native Community Fee *(paid by all anglers)* helps support their efforts to remain unaided and commited to tradition.

Birding

In fact there are more than 1,300 different varieties of birds in the Amazon rain forest and river basin. Roughly a third of all the known bird species and 10% of all the birds on the planet Earth are found in this incredibly fauna-rich part of South America.

Untamed Angling photos

A FEW OF OUR Brazil fly fishing lodges also cater to birders and are among the most famous eco-tourist destinations in the Amazon and make these spots ideal for couples, non-fishing companions, and muti-faceted outdoor enthusiasts.

Pirarucu *(above)*, which lies in the heart of the multi-million acre Mamiraua Indigenous Territory is a World Heritage Site, and one of the top five bird watching destinations in Brazil. It is home to over 400 species of birds and staffed by knowledgable ornithologists, botanists, and biologists.

All of our fly fishing destinations in the Amazon are avian wonders. Anglers generally awake in the morning to a cacaphony of bird sounds, as well as the roar of howler monkeys and a tangle of other tropical sounds. Sightings of toucans, and squadrons of *(several varieties)* Macaws are routine while fishing and it isn't uncommon to see hundreds of parakeets, parrots, magnificent herons, egrets, and other birds overhead, on the shoreline, or in the riparian jungle.

All this is to ignore the myriad other unusual animal life anglers sight almost daily. A week on any of the remote rivers of Brazil makes for more than just a fly fishing trip.

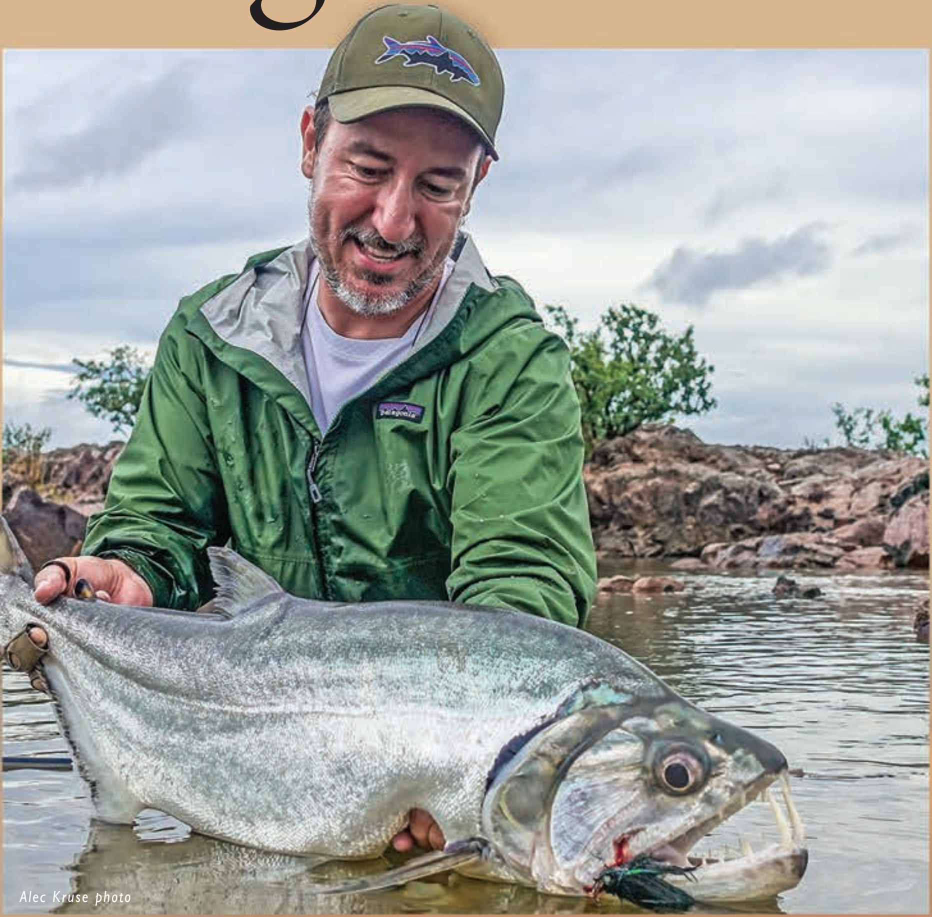
BRAZIL'S

The Xingu River

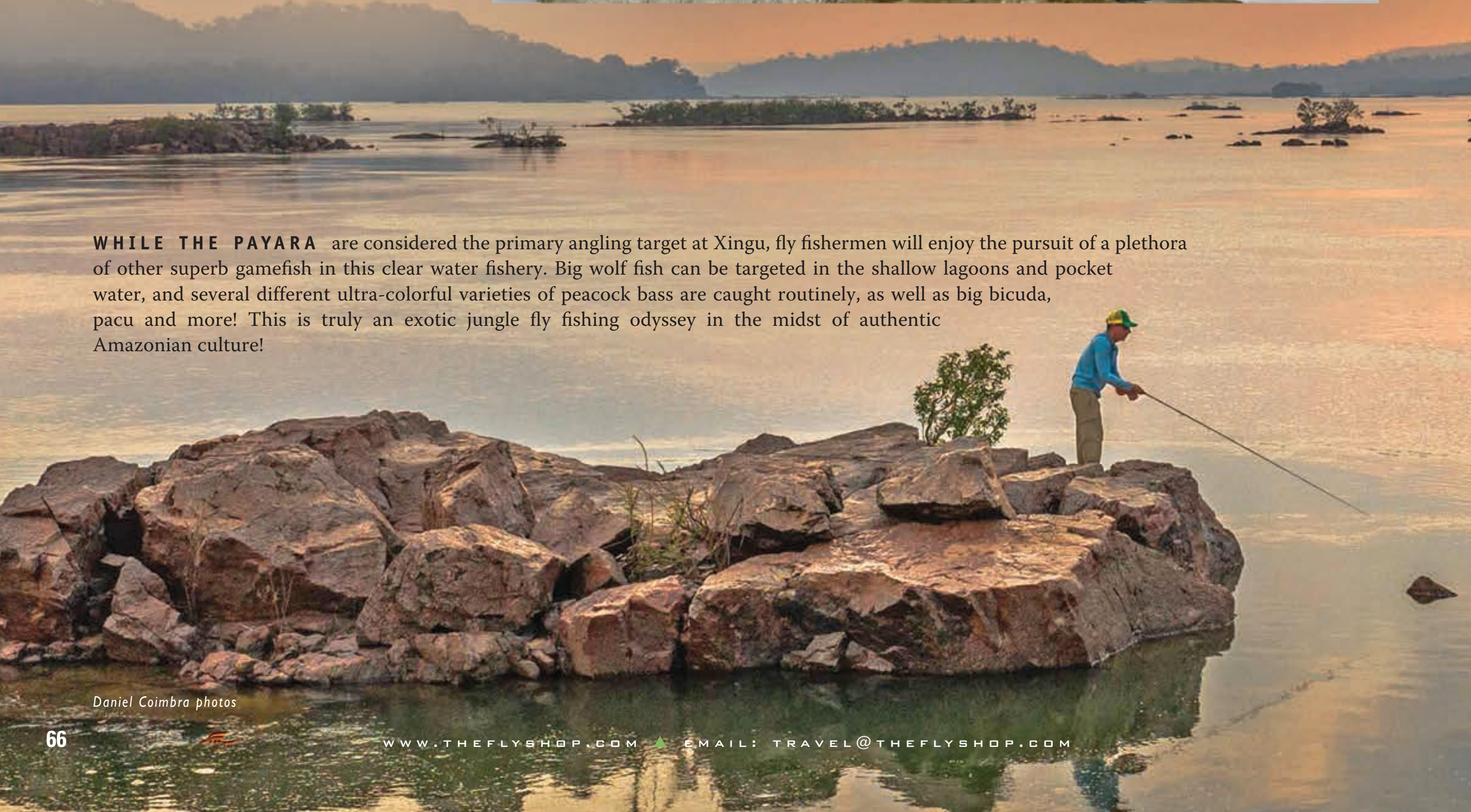
The Kayapo Nation's Xingu River is hands down the #1 destination on earth to target trophy payara.

THE XINGU RIVER lies deep in the heart of the Amazon. It flows swiftly over granite bedrock and runs clear from its headwaters to its confluence with the Iriri, over 300 miles downstream, all of it inside the protective borders of the Kayapo Indigenous Nation of Brazil. It is a broad, but braided river made up of riffles, pools, oxbows, channels, lakes, lagoons, rapids, drops and waterfalls that creates the finest payara habitat in the Amazon basin.

The impressive and ferocious looking payara, aka the "Vampire Fish", are nicknamed for the two enormous fangs protruding from their bottom jaw and penetrating through their forehead. There may not be a more savage looking game fish swimming in freshwater. If you want to pick a fight with one, there is really no place else to consider. Nothing else compares.



Alec Kruse photo



WHILE THE PAYARA are considered the primary angling target at Xingu, fly fishermen will enjoy the pursuit of a plethora of other superb gamefish in this clear water fishery. Big wolf fish can be targeted in the shallow lagoons and pocket water, and several different ultra-colorful varieties of peacock bass are caught routinely, as well as big bicuda, pacu and more! This is truly an exotic jungle fly fishing odyssey in the midst of authentic Amazonian culture!

Daniel Coimbra photos

FEW OTHER SPORT fishermen, and no commercial fishermen have ever been allowed on the Xingu. In fact, few non-natives have been tolerated in the massive Kayapo Indigenous Territory at all. The natives harvest only what they can immediately consume from the fish-rich river and do not focus on payara, pacu, or peacock bass as part of their diet. These fish are both plentiful and aggressive and it is doubtful if they've ever seen a fly.

Just imagine.

The Xingu experience is a great deal more than just another wonderful fishing trip. The Kayapo natives are famous for their efforts to preserve their culture and have resisted the introduction of modern technology beyond what they collectively feel is necessary for their health, and what is needed to assist them in the protection of their community and traditional way of life. Many are simultaneously computer literate and cell phone savvy, yet don't own a pair of shoes.

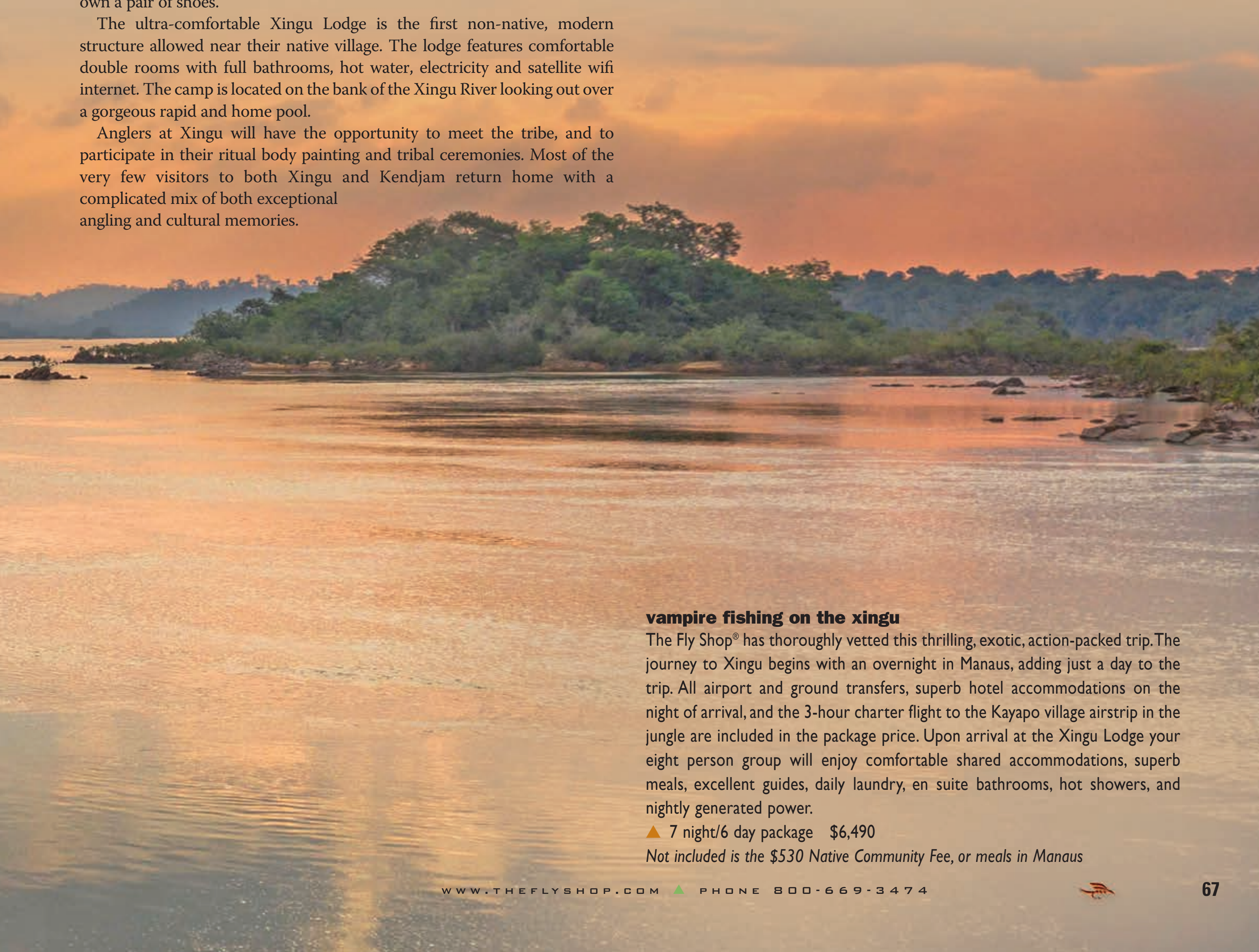
The ultra-comfortable Xingu Lodge is the first non-native, modern structure allowed near their native village. The lodge features comfortable double rooms with full bathrooms, hot water, electricity and satellite wifi internet. The camp is located on the bank of the Xingu River looking out over a gorgeous rapid and home pool.

Anglers at Xingu will have the opportunity to meet the tribe, and to participate in their ritual body painting and tribal ceremonies. Most of the very few visitors to both Xingu and Kendjam return home with a complicated mix of both exceptional angling and cultural memories.

THE FIRST GROUPS of anglers allowed to trespass into the heavily guarded, government protected, Xingu portion of the Kayapo Indigenous Territory arrived in September of 2019, accompanied by fisheries biologists and escorted by the Brazilian version of our own Bureau of Indian Affairs. It was an experiment sanctioned with the support of the native community and only after the cultural and financial success of Untamed Angling's Kendjam Project.

The size and numbers of payara they encountered, along with the variety of gamefish species left absolutely no room for exaggeration.

However, no further visitors were permitted after that first visit, and the following onset of the viral pandemic, until the entire adult native population was vaccinated. We could not be more excited to be invited back in 2022!



vampire fishing on the xingu

The Fly Shop® has thoroughly vetted this thrilling, exotic, action-packed trip. The journey to Xingu begins with an overnight in Manaus, adding just a day to the trip. All airport and ground transfers, superb hotel accommodations on the night of arrival, and the 3-hour charter flight to the Kayapo village airstrip in the jungle are included in the package price. Upon arrival at the Xingu Lodge your eight person group will enjoy comfortable shared accommodations, superb meals, excellent guides, daily laundry, en suite bathrooms, hot showers, and nightly generated power.

▲ 7 night/6 day package $6,490

Not included is the $530 Native Community Fee, or meals in Manaus

BRAZIL

Agua Boa

One of only a handful of angling destinations in Brazil dedicated to fly fishing only, this superb facility was selected by Forbes Magazine as one of the top ten fishing lodges in the world!

AGUA BOA LODGE guest accommodations are second to none in Brazil and its swimming pool is a welcome sight at the end of a tropical, fish-weary afternoon. The well-trained, English-speaking, native guides are dedicated fly fishermen and the fishing is terrific.

There are remarkable numbers of Peacock Bass, including significant numbers of the monster temensis variety and a near-endless supply of the smaller "butterfly" Peacocks. Its white sand bottom and clarity makes Agua Boa particularly well-suited to fly fishing, setting it apart from many other peacock destinations.

Agua Boa is operated by one of the most respected outfitters in the business and is first-rate in every category. It accommodates eight guests, is strictly fly fishing only, and has exclusive access to over 100 miles of the Agua Boa River and its lagoons. Because the Agua Boa is an ecotourism preserve, only one licensed sport-fishing operator is allowed on the entire watershed. Absolutely no commercial fishing has been allowed for many years and the sportfishing is beyond remarkable!

The Peacock Bass action is near non-stop in January and February, and fish in the double-digit category are common. Biologists estimate that the Agua Boa is one of the top three trophy peacock bass rivers in the entire Amazon.

Naturalists will appreciate that the Agua Boa River is bordered by a primal hardwood forest reaching hundreds of feet to the sky and is home to world-class birdwatching and wildlife viewing.

The lodge offers a level of comfort unrivaled in the Amazon. Guests stay in private, air-conditioned bungalows with two queen beds, a sitting area, private bath, and a porch overlooking the river. The lodge has every amenity imaginable including phone/fax line, satellite TV, well-furnished library, 24-hour electricity, game room, swimming pool, full bar, a wonderful indoor and outdoor dining room, fine meals, cold drinks and a top-notch facility.

This is a perfect spot for the expert, and the novice, the hard-core angler, and discriminating traveller.

agua boa lodge

Clients are met in Manaus, transported by charter flight to the remote Amazon tributary location as part of the package.

▲ 7-day fishing package Nov.-Dec. $6,000 Jan.-March $7,150

Matt Harris photo

Agua Boa Lodge photos

Tracey Toft photo

Antti Rastivo photo

This bad-ass carnivore
may be the ultimate
freshwater gamefish!

Golden Dorado

These fish are shaped like King Salmon with terrible orthodonture and an even worse attitude. If one were to be tied tail-to-tail with most other freshwater species, it'd pull the scales off its opponent then probably turn around and eat it.

DORADO ARE SO aggressive that they eat each other, they eat their young, and in the juvenile stage they swim in small circles chewing at each other's tails. In fact, it's rare to find a small, young Dorado without wounds that hasn't been physically and emotionally scarred by a relative. They're the ultimate dysfunctional family in the fish world, and display only two modes of behavior: kill and reproduce. Apparently they can multi-task and are often in both modes simultaneously.

By nature, Dorado are mean as hell. They show no mercy, and often chase their prey into inches of water.

The violent pursuit of these baitfish telegraphs the location of the Dorado, and a quick, well-placed streamer will usually connect.

These fierce, ill-tempered fish will take flies both on top of the water and sub-surface. Techniques are simple, and the whereabouts of Dorado is predictable. They have no predators, often lie in plain sight, and stalking them from the shore is thrilling.

The strike of a mature Dorado can be either subtle or violent, but when the fish feels the steel, all hell breaks loose. Dorado are ferocious animals that don't give up easily. They'll usually go airborne immediately, and the battle is charged with explosive bursts of power punctuated by tailwalking attempts to toss the hook. When the struggle appears over and they're being landed or photographed, they'll often attack the angler!

Here at The Fly Shop® we've become addicted to Dorado fishing. The places we find them are, at the same time, exotic and fantastic.

ARGENTINA

Golden Dorado Cruiser

THE PARANA DELTA is formed by the confluence of the Parana and Uruguay rivers. It's a 4,600 square mile marshland that filters the rivers and allows them to clear, creating a unique ecosystem that supports a massive migration of bait fish, thousands of lagoons, back bays, channels, creeks, and river banks and a fishery harboring the largest population of Golden Dorado on the planet.

The key to effectively fishing this huge natural fish farm is mobility. That's where the mothership, Parana Gipsy, with a team of hardcore fly fishing guides and first-class fishing skiffs comes into the picture, keeping its anglers within easy daily striking distance of a fresh supply of willing, aggressive Dorado.

Guests aboard the 75´ mothership are treated to first-class cuisine, and the finest Argentine wines. This is the perfect fishery for anglers new to the sport of Dorado fishing with a fly and that predicate a successful trip on numbers of fish. Anglers can expect to land two to three dozen Dorado each day in the 2-7 pound range and hook up with occasional fish twice that size.

The Dorado Cruiser is owned and managed by one of the most respected and successful outfitters in Argentina.

golden dorado cruiser

The package aboard the Parana Gipsy is simple and hassle-free. Guests are met at the Buenos Aires airport, and three hours later will be on board and often rigging up their fly rods in time to enjoy an evening of fishing upon arrival.

The mobile lodge is the ideal base for pursuing these extremely migrant and pressure-savvy gamefish.

It's the perfect way to spend a first or last few days in Argentina or Chile prior to (*or after*) Patagonia, Tierra del Fuego, wine tasting, or hunting. The Golden Dorado Cruiser helps avoid overnight hotels, transfers, and wasted time in a city whose sights and interests you may have exhausted on previous trips.

▲ 7 night/6 day fishing $4,950 per person
▲ 6 night/5 day fishing 4,400 per person
▲ 5 night/4 day fishing 3,750 per person
▲ 4 night/3 day fishing 3,150 per person
▲ *Non-angling rate is 50% of the package.*

Packages include all transfers, meals, overnight laundry service, and guided fishing. The season is year 'round. Peak Dorado angling begins in October and continues through March

Golden Dorado Cruiser photos

BOLIVIA

The Tsimane Experience

Tsimane is in the heart of Bolivia's Indigenous Territory. It's wild country where the Amazon jungle meets the Andes and is, arguably, the most amazing and exciting freshwater destination that has entered the world of international fly fishing in a generation.

TSIMANE IS A once-in-a-lifetime jungle experience, sight-casting to monster dorado that can tip the scales at up to 40 pounds, and cohabit with fierce Pacú that can weigh up to 25 pounds. Much of the fly fishing is done in mountain fisheries that are often as clear as any western trout stream. It's angling in a spectacular tropical jungle setting accented by exotic birdlife, wildlife, and set to a cacophony of jungle noise.

We hunt them with light tackle and spot them in shallow water, busting bait, or lying in structure ready to ambush anything in range.

The pursuit is often done on foot, with pairs of anglers wading or stalking foraging fish from the banks of these freestone rivers. When individual dorado are spotted, fishermen usually alternate shots. The wading and the walking aren't tough, but there's a lot of it. The angling days are often strenuous and are best suited for physically fit anglers with a spirit of adventure and an appetite for exotic fishing that's beyond conventional.

Sight casting to these fierce cannibals is a thrilling event that has to be experienced in order to be understood.

Tsimane is more than just another destination

TSIMANE IS A real partnership between the indigenous native community and private enterprise. The small tribe of Tsimane all participate in the operation of the lodge and camps. These are people who have changed little, other than their garb, in a thousand years, but are invested, form a majority of the labor pool, and take an ever-increasing role in the management and protection of their own fishery.

Guests at Tsimane will not only enjoy phenomenal fishing, but will be immersed in local culture and surrounded by guides and other natives who contribute a great deal to every aspect of what makes Tsimane more than just another lodge.

Untamed Angling photo

tsimane's pluma lodge

Pluma Lodge is elegant, carved out of the Amazon forest, featuring fine meals and panoramic views of the river, where packs of ravenous dorado hit schools of sabalo at all hours of the day and night. Eight anglers have access to fishing that begins at the lodge doorstep, as well as targeting two different, nearby rivers and several smaller tributaries. Adventurous anglers may choose to trek up the rugged Upper Pluma or hike to incredible sight fishing in the Itirizama headwaters.

▲ 9 night/6 day package $7,600 per person

Package does not include the $670 Native and Park fees

agua negra lodge and securé lodge

These are over-the-top angling experiences in the midst of the most exotic landscape imaginable. Deluxe, African-style tents, ice-cold drinks, and fine meals await fish-weary fly rodders after each day fishing at the two mid-river locations. A maximum of 4-6 guests share either of these two rainforest lodges, and the remote new headwaters outcamps for those adventurous anglers who want to get farther away from it all. It's the perfect angling holiday for small groups.

▲ 9 night/6 day package $6,950 per person

Package does not include the $570 Native and Park fees

Juan Pablo Marchelletti photo

Antti Rastivo photo

Call us about Tsimane's new helicpoter fly-out packages

ARGENTINA

Dorados on the Fly

The birthplace of the passion, fever, and enthusiasm fueling the sport of dorado fishing is Argentina, and Ricardo "Pinti" Pinto is the most famous dorado outfitter in Latin America. He's forgotten more about dorado than most claim to know, and has a small, riverside lodge in a village on the shore of the Parana, perfectly positioned to access the endless river, back bays, and side channels that hold some of the world's largest dorado!

FROM HIS ITA IBATE base on the Upper Parana River below Yacrieta Dam, Ricardo Pinto and his expert staff of fly fishing guides are perfectly positioned to pursue some of the largest and most explosive freshwater carnivores in all of South America.

The river in this region is a tailwater for more than 70 kilometers, and water can oftentimes have over 6 feet of visibility, and the dorado in this area cohabit with exceptionally large pacu *(Argentina Permit)* that range from 8 to 25 pounds and Para Pita *(Called "Parana Salmon" because of their red meat).*

Ricardo "Pinti" Pinto and his guide staff are world-class professionals, with decades of experience fishing and guiding dorado all over South America. These guys are considered the best in the business and have developed the most popular flies and the most effective techniques used in this aspect of the sport. They are terrific communicators, coaches and fun to spend a day on the skiff with. They'll fast-track you on the fly fishing tactics needed to become a successful dorado angler and you'll learn something new every day.

Guests fishing with Dorados on the Fly are accommodated in a very well-appointed and spacious traditional Argentina-style lodge sitting right on the banks of the Parana River, with spectacular views of the river and jungle environment surrounding this amazing waterway. Anglers are accommodated in large single/private rooms complete with en suite bathroom, air conditioning and all the amenities you would expect in a first-class fishing lodge. Meals are taken in the main dining room and fish stories are shared in the full bar.

The best months for dorado in the Upper Parana is from January through May, and again in September and October. In Argentina's fall months *(May and June)*, the water cools and fish are less active.

dorado on the fly *(corrientes, argentina)*

Pinti's place features lovely guest rooms, fine meals, great wines, and a full bar. Anglers share a guide and boat in search of trophy dorado on the Upper Parana River using sinking tip or floating lines.

▲ 7 night/6 day fishing package	$5,200 per person
▲ 6 night/5 day fishing package	4,500 per person
▲ 5 night/4 day fishing package	3,700 per person
▲ 4 night/3 day fishing package	2,800 per person

Dorado on the Fly photo

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EAST AFRICA

Tanzania Tigerfish

These ferocious predators have no equal in freshwater. Their strike is ultra-violent and every non-stop, finger-blistering battle is punctuated by a breathtaking display of gravity-defying leaps.

DISCOVERY OF the Mnyera and Ruhudji river systems in Tanzania a decade ago was nothing less than a milestone in our sport when one considers that, in the previous half-century fly fisherman had been targeting tigerfish, no twenty-pound fish had ever been landed. Then eight of them over twenty were landed in as many days on the Mnyera!

The Fly Shop's well-established outfitter and travel partner, African Waters pioneered the angling in this part of East Africa. They discovered the potential of these two magnificent fisheries, then teamed up with the hunting operator who holds the exclusive concession to this massive Tanzania jungle wilderness.

Unlike other famous tiger fisheries, this outfitter is allowed to strictly limit river traffic and enforce year-round anti-poaching regulations. The result is that during each of the ten years since these two river camps were developed, every aspect of the operation, and the fishing, has continued to improve.

Guests enjoy spacious, traditional, safari-type tent camps with ensuite bathrooms, daily laundry, fine meals, and a staff:guest ratio that virtually guarantees personal attention and the great service that has become the hallmark of African Waters.

The Fly Shop's angling travel team has visited this fabulous fishery several times in the last three years and has completely vetted the operation. Hands down, it is not only the best tigerfishing Africa has to offer, but the destination truly rates as one of the world's finest and most unique angling experiences.

Because both fisheries are loaded with a startling population of huge, freshwater crocodiles, there is very little wading done on either the Mnyera and Ruhudji rivers except in their clear, shallow headwaters. Most angling is done from the safe confines of comfortable, shallow-draft Jon boats, perfectly suited for these rivers.

Fly fishermen tempt these toothy savages with streamers or poppers tossed toward cutbanks or structure where the fierce predators might lie in ambush. Fish range in size from 5 to 25 pounds. Most of the largest fish are lost, because these critters don't just look ferocious, they battle like no other fish found in fresh water, combining aerobatics with blistering runs that peel a full fly line off the deck in seconds.

The place has all the sights and experiences you might expect in the African bush. Hippos and herds of buffalo and elephant are common in the area, as well as a host of plains game species including puku, warthog, hartebeest, zebra, eland, bushbuck, and the occasional sighting of lions and leopards. The amount of bird life is exceptional with many rare and endemic species sighted in the area.

"My first big tigerfish burned through the leather on my Sun Glove, the tape on both stripping fingers, and nearly cut me to the bone."
Justin Milller - Mnyera, 9/15/19

THE TIME TO BE THERE IS during any of the weeks from August thru mid-November, when the annual dry season causes the water temperatures to rise, the clarity to improve, the baitfish population to explode, and tigerfish to go berserk. The short season is timed to ensure predictably good weather, and is limited to only eight weekly guests. It is a strict catch-and-release operation with a well-managed system that keeps each of the beats fresh and provides season-long, non-stop action.

African Waters photos

This East African angling safari is a walk on what is unquestionably the wildest side of fly fishing! Tigerfish in the near – clear headwaters of these two, broad, shallow rivers share the riverine landscape with savage crocodiles and chubby hippos, but no one else!

african waters tanzania tigerfishing

The Fly Shop® couldn't give this action-packed trip a higher recommendation. The journey begins and ends with overnights in Dar es Salaam, adding 2 days to the length of the trip. Airport/hotel transfers and round-trip charter flights to the camps are included. International air fare, hotel overnights in the city, and Tanzania's $100 visa are not part of the package.

Four of the eight fly fishermen in each group spend half the week (*three full days*) at each of the two, equally well-equipped, fully staffed, river camps. They exchange locations mid-week, joining up the last night at the larger (*Mnyera*) camp, before returning on the the final morning's two hour charter flight on to Dar es Salaam.

▲ 7 night - 6 day package $10,850 includes Dar es Salaam charter flights

MEXICO

Yucatan

Arian Stevens photo

Just south of the Tropic of Cancer, at approximately 23.5 degrees north latitude, (named nearly 2000 years ago because the sun was in the direction of the Cancer constellation during the June equinox) is the northern tip of the Mexican Yucatan.

THE PENINSULA itself is bordered on the west and north by the Gulf of Mexico and on the east by the Caribbean Sea. On its southern boundary are found Belize and Guatemala. Back in the 70's and 80's, its man-made tourist attraction of Cancun added to the discovery of fabulous flats fishing to the south, putting it on the radar of fly fishers from all over the world, but especially the US, with the relatively short, easy trip to get there. The Mexican Yucatan covers 44,000 square miles with over 500 miles of coastline – along this vast shoreline are thousands of square miles of shallow bays and flats.

It is the ancient land of the Mayan peoples, with the towering pyramids of many ruins dotting the jungles and coastline.

It is also home to tens of thousands of bonefish, permit, tarpon, snook, snapper and barracuda. The fishing is holding up very well. Some say, in part, due to the rules set down by the Sian Ka'an Biosphere Reserve, severely restricting commercial and sport fishing within its boundaries. Thousands of sportfishers visit the Mexican Yucatan every year, but there is still remote and secluded fishing to be found where you, your fishing partner and your guide are the only people in sight on a flats miles in length and the next fish you see might be a bonefish, tarpon, permit or a snook. You can't ask for much more than that.

Tarpon *in the* Gulf *of* Mexico

The mangrove-lined flats of the Mexican Gulf are loaded with tarpon of all sizes. This is a thrill a minute, 12-weight brand of excitement with 8-weight rods!

Campeche photo

THE FERTILE mangrove-lined shores of Mexico's northern Yucatan are home to the most prolific population of juvenile tarpon found anywhere in the world. Dozens of flights a day from the States make this an easy place to get to, and the heart-stopping light tackle tarpon action that's made this Peninsula famous can be tailored to suit any schedule. It is in the heart of Mayan culture and visits can be easily combined with tourist-oriented travel.

Campeche, Rio Largartos and Isla Holbox are all sight fishing destinations and the numbers of tarpon that most visiting fly fishermen have within range is astounding.

The most popular time to be there is from April through September when sub-tropical weather is at its best and most reliable. Still, this is a very temperate climate and a year-round destination that can be super-productive nearly every day of the year.

tarpon cay lodge, northern yucatan

Nestled in the small town of Rio Largartos, on the north shore of the Yucatan Peninsula, Tarpon Cay has set itself apart as a baby tarpon fishery just outside the hustle and bustle of Cancun. The diversity of water to find tarpon ranging from 5-25 lbs is amazing, but truly special is to find pods of these ferocious fish busting bait out on the turtle grass flats. Most all of the fishing is done from 18′ pangas with floating lines. This is sight casting at it's best! Guides are excellent and plan their fishing itinerary around the visibility and tides, doing split days if necessary with everyone taking an afternoon siesta!

- 7 night/6 day package $4,360
- *Shorter packages available*

campeche, western yucatan

Non-stop and exciting 8-weight tarpon action can almost always be found on the Mayan west coast of the Yucatan Peninsula. Fishing there is done from modern skiffs and guides poling along the shallow, coastal, mangrove-lined flats and shorelines. Anglers are usually casting to visible tarpon cruising and feeding in the shallows, or hiding along the structure and brush-lined shore.

Historic Campeche is an easy drive from Merida, and arrival and departure days can be tailored, trimmed or expanded to accommodate most schedules. Packages may also be combined with any other Yucatan fishing lodges, and we'll be glad to give advice regarding a combo visit to the famous regional Mayan ruins.

- 7 night/6 day package $3,650
- *Longer and shorter trips are available*

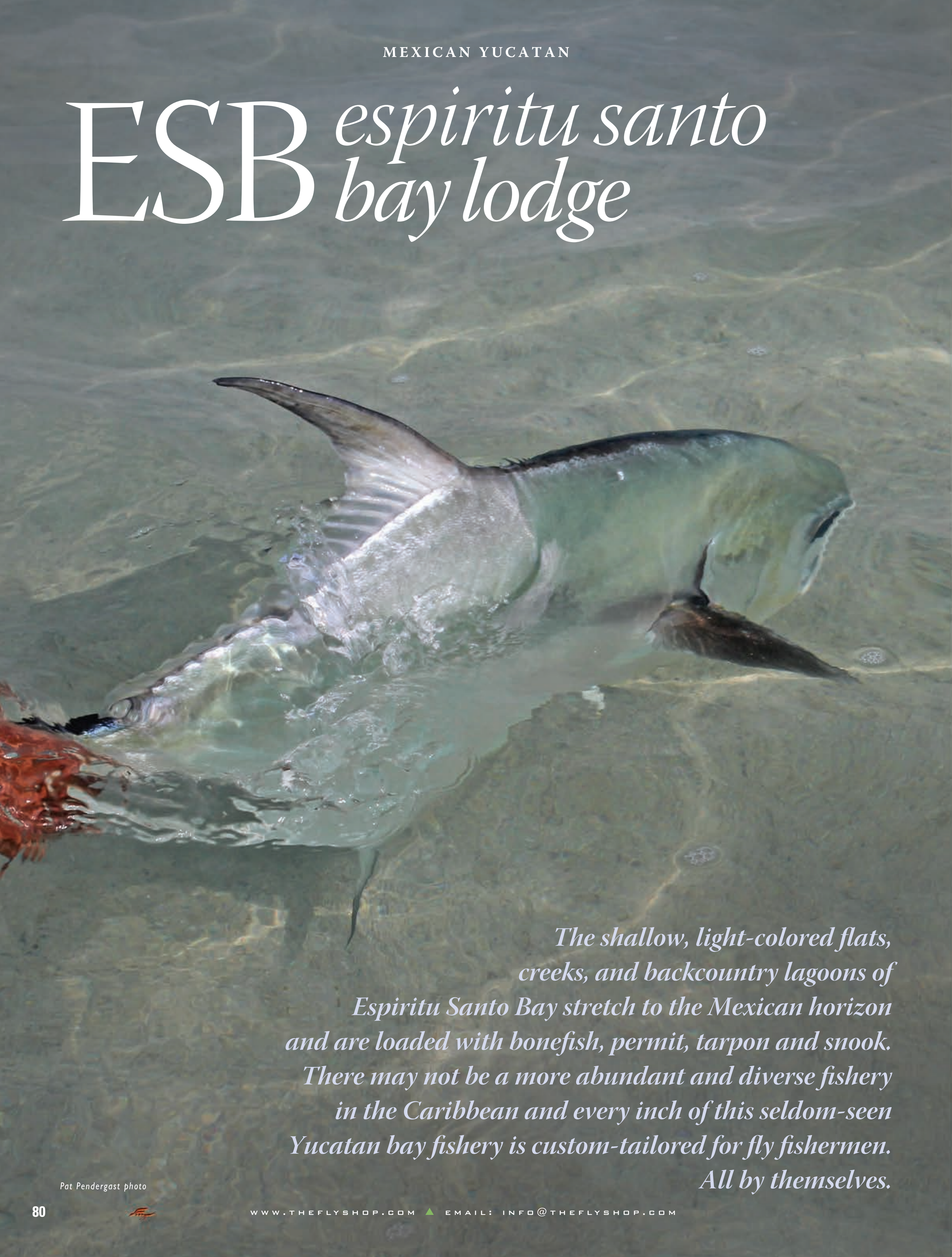
tarpon club isla holbox on the northern tip of the Yucatan, is home to some of the best juvenile tarpon fishing in the Caribbean. This action-packed flats adventure delivers the highest numbers of fish in the spring and fall, and the biggest fish in mid-summer... big boys up to and above the 100-pound mark.

The hopping little island village and quiet beaches of Isla Holbox are a far cry from the tourist traps of Cancun. Guests at the fisherman-friendly Holbox Fly Fishing Lodge enjoy terrific guides, a casual, laid-back atmosphere and a true Mexican experience on and off the water.

It's a popular choice for both novice and expert anglers and modestly-priced packages can be tailored for couples and families.

- 7 night/6 day package $3,395
- *Custom packages available*

ESB espiritu santo bay lodge



The shallow, light-colored flats, creeks, and backcountry lagoons of Espiritu Santo Bay stretch to the Mexican horizon and are loaded with bonefish, permit, tarpon and snook. There may not be a more abundant and diverse fishery in the Caribbean and every inch of this seldom-seen Yucatan bay fishery is custom-tailored for fly fishermen. All by themselves.

Pat Pendergast photo

ESB is the perfect spot to enjoy excellent saltwater flats fishing in the company of a few friends and no one else!

ESPIRITU SANTO BAY LODGE (ESB) is the hottest angling spot in the Yucatan. Period! The operation is located on a Caribbean beach only a stone's throw from where its fish-rich bay connects with the sea.

Angling pressure is almost non-existent, solitude is an every day experience, and fly fishermen can expect a top quality experience for a lot of reasons.

Espiritu Santo Bay is half the size of Ascension Bay. It's an exhausting half-day drive from Cancun on a washboard road and because it is difficult to reach, has remained isolated and well insulated from the negative impacts of civilization. But we fly in!

The tiny, seasonal lobster fishing village of Punta Herrero and the entire bay enjoys the strict protection of the Sian Ka'an Biosphere Reserve.

The bay itself is edged by vast sand flats, perfect to wade for bonefish, with deeper troughs that are predictably great places to find cruising schools of permit.

Multiple creek systems pour into the bay, depositing rich limestone sediment that attracts tailing bonefish and permit. The mangroves lining these creeks provide perfect habitat for tarpon and snook and dawn-to-dark action.

Espiritu Santo Bay Lodge guests spend their days fishing from state-of-the-art skiffs or wading light-colored, shallow sand flats. Runs to the flats from the lodge are short, fifteen to thirty minutes, where it is rare to see another angler while poling or wading. There are comfortable beachfront accommodations, skilled native guides, and the chance to score regularly on bonefish, tarpon, permit, snook, and barracuda. It's Super Grand Slam country!

A private charter flight from Cancun *(included)* to a government air strip that's only a short drive from the lodge has solved the issues of isolation and transportation. The remote Espiritu Santo Bay Lodge location now demands no more travel time than any of the Ascension Bay lodges.

Bonefish and resident tarpon are plentiful and found year 'round. Larger, migratory tarpon show up in the bay as early as April and hang around through September. Trophy-sized snook *(over 20 pounds)* are found in the bay, and the fishery ranks among the best permit destinations in the sport!

ESB photos

espiritu santo bay lodge

Packages begin and end on Sundays to insure easy connections in Cancun from anywhere in the USA. Included are the round trip charter from Cancun to the airstrip near the lodge, transfers from the airstrip, exquisitely prepared meals, air-conditioned accommodations, lots of ice, 6 days of guided fishing, and the 15% Mexican VAT. Espiritu Santo Bay Lodge guests arrive at the remote government airstrip and transfer by vehicle to the lodge, arriving in time to organize their tackle, enjoy refreshments and gather their energy for the next 6 days of non-stop flats action.

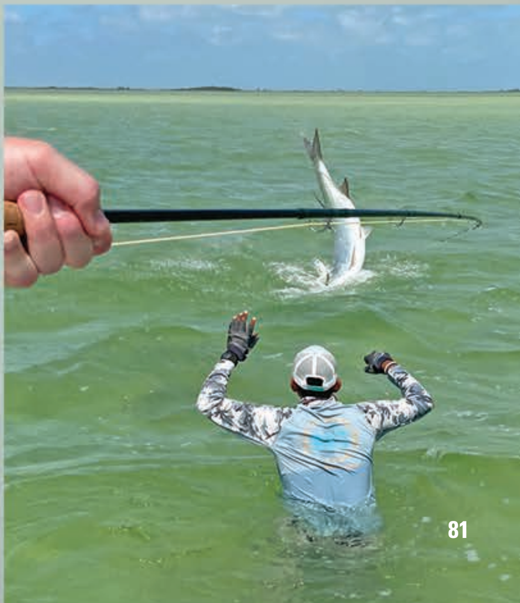
The staff is a team of well-seasoned, fly-savvy, English-speaking guides and professional managers.

- ▲ $5,090 per person, *(double occupancy)*
- ▲ 7,895 per person, *(single occupancy)*

In five short years, ESB has established itself as the #1 permit fishing destination in the world. The number of fly-caught permit brought to hand borders on ridiculous. In 2021 alone, 246 anglers landed an incredible 790 permit! That's better than 3 permit per angler.

SIGNATURE The Fly Shop SINCE 1978 DESTINATION

Reservations at this and other Signature Destinations are available only through The Fly Shop® and our network of agents and fly shops.



Casa Blanca photo

The best of Ascension Bay

The Fly Shop® ***has been fishing the waters of the Yucatan Peninsula for nearly forty years. We've cruised every inch of the coastline and we're intimately familiar with all of the Yucatan lodges. We know the differences between the luxury bonefish lodges and the hard-core permit operations and we can help you choose the right spot for you and your friends or family. We've done the work, so you don't have to.***

ASCENSION BAY is just to the south of the Mexican Riviera. It is, in fact, one of the sport's most popular fly fishing destinations, visited by several thousand sportfisherman each year. Experts estimate that more bonefish and permit are hooked, and more "grand slams" recorded in Ascension Bay than anywhere else on the fly fishing saltwater map.

Ascension Bay has a wide corridor connecting it to the Caribbean, and is constantly replenished with sportfish and baitfish from the sea. It is a shallow, clear saltwater home to huge schools of unsophisticated bonefish and more than a hundred miles of mangrove shoreline habitat. Most of it is perfect for bonefish, baby tarpon, snook, and an abundance of fly-friendly permit.

Guides in these lodges are English-speaking natives of Mayan-Mestizo descent. They're well-versed in fly fishing, know their trade, and their presence adds a cultural aspect to an already pleasure-laden experience.

Despite pressure on Ascension Bay, the fishing remains excellent, due, in part, to its size and the combined efforts of a progressive, environmentally conscious government, The World Heritage Foundation, The Nature Conservancy, and the Sian Ka'an Biosphere Reserve's regulations which severely restrict development and enforces stringent commercial and sportfishing rules within it's immense boundaries.

More "grand slams" are recorded in Ascension Bay than anywhere else on the fly fishing saltwater map

Francisco Bedeschi photo

casa blanca, ascension bay

Casa Blanca rates as one of the finest, most deluxe and best-equipped angling resorts in the Mexican Yucatan. No corners are cut and nothing is spared here when it comes to quality. First-class skiffs, fine lodging, well-trained guides, a superb chef, and an almost irrefutable claim to the finest margaritas in Mexico.

Don't let all that luxury fool you. Casa Blanca is a high-class fishing lodge first. Testimony to that is their success and reputation. Casa Blanca is the most popular and productive bonefish, permit, and tarpon operation in Ascension Bay. There's no argument from us or from the majority of fishermen that return there year after year.

▲ February 5 through May 21 $6,044 per week
▲ May 21 through October 6 5,704 per week

playa blanca, espíritu santo bay

Playa Blanca is the sister lodge to Casa Blanca and rests on the east shore of Isla Punta Pajaros, a small coastal island on the southern end of the famed Ascension Bay. Only two lodges are licensed to fish Espiritu Santo Bay, the other being ESB Lodge to the south. Surrounded by the 1.3 million acre Sian Ka'an Biosphere, Playa Blanca provides endless opportunities to pursue the coveted grand slam of salt water fly fishing. The waters of Espiritu Santo Bay are arguably one of the greatest saltwater wildernesses left in the Caribbean. The beautiful lodge facility sits on a white sand beach and features private deluxe cabanas with ensuite baths, breathtaking views of the Caribbean, gourmet Mexican cuisine and world-class service. It's a great spot for couples but make no mistake, Playa is all about fishing.

▲ February 2 through May 21 $6,044 per week
▲ Oct 2 through February 2 5,704 per week

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¿Sabías que la Reserva de la Biosfera Sian Ka'an es uno de los dos sitios considerados Patrimonio Natural UNESCO en nuestro país?
Con tu pago de derechos participas en su conservación.
Reserva de la Biosfera
Sian Ka'an

Brian Grossenbacher photo

Palometa *in Spanish translates to permit*

Patrick Duke photos

the palometa club, ascension bay

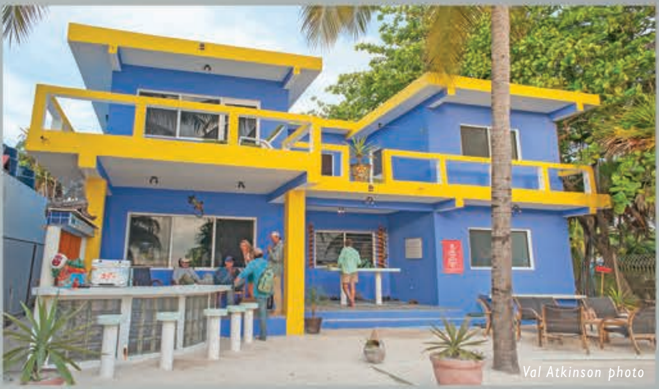
The Palometa Club is perfectly positioned on the Punta Allen beach, only minutes from the expansive flats of Ascension Bay and the wind-sheltered Boca Paila lagoon. Hard-core permit junkies will find themselves right at home among these fanatics. Your two professional guides will chase bonefish and tarpon, but they live and breathe permit, often offering up their own special flies.

Each boat has 2 professional guides. One on the poling platform, the other on the deck, tending line, relaying instructions, and adding an extra set of professional eyes. They use large, super-stable pangas that are perfect for the big water crossings on Ascension Bay. Fragile, light flats boats just won't cut it here.

Palometa is casual, comfortable, and considered one of the best pure fly fishing operations in the Yucatan.

▲ Weekly fishing packages $4,500

The
PALOMETA
CLUB



Val Atkinson photo

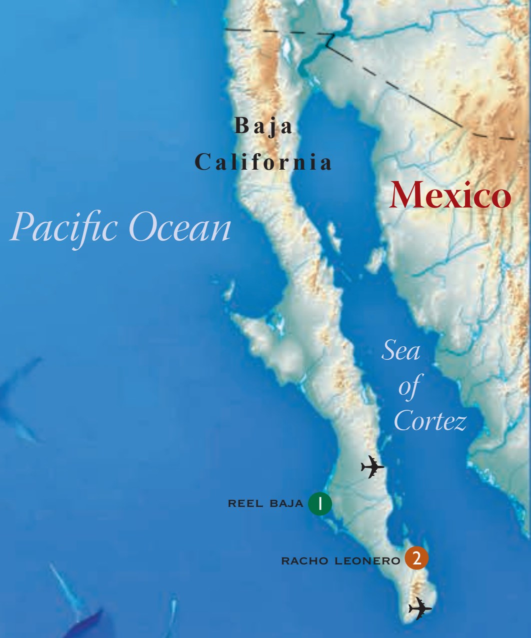
BENT. THAT'S HOW A FLY ROD IS MEANT TO BE. BENT UNDER THE WEIGHT OF A GOOD TROUT. BENT UNDER THE FIGHTING POWER OF A PERMIT, A TARPON, A STEELHEAD, A REDFISH AND EVERY OTHER FINNED QUARRY THAT WILL SUCK IN A CRAB PATTERN, RISE TO A DRY FLY, AND CHASE DOWN A STREAMER. BENT IS THE END PURPOSE OF EVERY WINSTON FLY ROD. FOR OVER 90 YEARS, BENT HAS ALSO BEEN THE END PURPOSE OUR COMPANY. SINCE DAY ONE, WE HAVE BEEN BENT ON CRAFTING THE MOST INNOVATIVE AND UNPARALLELED RODS IN THE WORLD. MAKE THAT HELL-BENT. AN ALL-IN AND ALL-OUT COMMITMENT TO CREATING RODS THAT CAST SMOOTHLY, PRECISELY, AND WITH FEEL. RODS THAT EMPOWER ANGLERS TO PRESENT A FLY PERFECTLY AND GET THE JOB DONE. YES, WINSTON RODS ARE RENOWNED FOR THEIR MATCHLESS AESTHETICS AND WORKMANSHIP. BUT THESE ARE WORTHLESS ATTRIBUTES UNLESS THE STICK IN YOUR HAND HAS THE MOJO AND PERFORMANCE TO END UP WHERE IT'S MEANT TO BE: *BENT*.

BENT R.L. WINSTON ROD CO. SINCE 1929

WINSTONRODS.COM

Baja California Sur

This saltwater fishery is legendary



BEGINNING AT THE 28TH PARALLEL and extending to its tip at Cabo San Lucas, the southern Baja Peninsula offers endless opportunities for the traveling angler. With the rugged Sierra de la Gigante Mountains falling 6,284 feet to the sea, and miles of remote coastlines embracing the Pacific Ocean and the Sea of Cortez, Baja California Sur is literally surrounded with spectacular and diverse fisheries.

Offshore of Bahia Magdalena, the cold waters of the California Current flow south along the Pacific Coast, meeting the warm waters of the Davidson Current moving north, trapping massive amounts of plankton and krill against a series of seamounts and pinnacles. Baitfish congregate there as do the predators that hunt them, including striped marlin, dorado, and yellowfin tuna. The offshore fishery is legendary. Striped marlin are often seen swimming near the surface, surrounding and attacking schools of sardines and mackerel. These billfish average 80 to 120 pounds, are capable of swimming over 50 miles per hour and skyrocketing into the air. Setting the hook on one of these magnificent gamefish and feeling their power through a series of runs and jumps is an experience you'll never forget.

Bahia Magdalena and its adjacent waters are sheltered from the Pacific Ocean behind three barrier islands. The connected inland waters are over 100 miles long and 13 miles across at its widest point. The northern 65 miles are a narrow complex of mangrove lined islands and winding channels with three "bocas", or openings to the ocean. The southern 50 miles include 2 wide open bays and the largest opening to the ocean, "la entrada", nearly 4 miles wide. The protected mangrove channels within the bay provide extensive habitat for a wide variety of species, including snook, corvina, bonefish, snapper, golden trevally, broomtail grouper, sierra, halibut, jacks, and roosterfish.

In sharp contrast to Bahia Magdalena is the Sea of Cortez, just over 100 miles to the east and across the Baja Peninsula, with some of the world's greatest oceanographic extremes. Less than 150 miles in width and up to 14,000 feet in depth, the typically calm waters of the Sea of Cortez often look more like a lake than an ocean. Black and striped marlin, sailfish, wahoo, yellowfin tuna and dorado frequent the waters, and fishing for these species often begins less than a mile from the beach

Fishing in Baja California Sur can provide a seemingly endless number of available species, beginning on the beach and extending to the offshore waters. Roosterfish, dorado, marlin, yellowfin tuna, sierra mackerel, yellowtail, barred pargo, african pompano, golden trevally, snapper, bonefish, snook, bonito, skipjack, barracuda, halibut, corvina, amberjack, white seabass, sailfish, and wahoo await the adventurous Baja angler. Additional joys of fishing in Baja Sur include encounters with the marine mammals and seabirds. Fin, blue and Bryde's whales are often seen, and the magnificent migrations of the gray whales bring mothers and calves into the estuaries and bays of Baja California Sur.

The Reel Baja, Jeff deBrown photos

Eric Ersch photo

① the reel baja, bahia magdalena

Based in the small bayfront town of Lopez Mateos, utilizing a complex of newly constructed cottages nestled among native shrubs and palms for accommodations. The cuisine is outstanding, focusing on fresh seafood and locally grown vegetables, expertly prepared by their skilled chef.

Anglers fish with experienced boat captains at the helm, with a professional fly fishing guide on the deck. The fishing day may include a run to the offshore banks for pelagic species, nearshore fishing for snook and grouper, or casting along the mangrove-lined channels inside the bay for a variety of species.

▲ 6 nights/5 days fishing, pricing begins at $4,770

② rancho leonero, sea of cortez

With a swimming pool overlooking a white sand beach, excellent beachfront accommodations, and a wide selection of non-angling activities, Rancho Leonero is well-suited for families and serious anglers alike. Roosterfish are hooked from the beaches, and striped marlin swim into the teasers just a mile offshore. At the same time the family can be horseback riding or snorkeling while mom is relaxing into a quality massage.

A variety of boats and packages are available, including cruisers capable of fishing the entire family and center console sport fishers, each piloted by experienced captains. Anglers have the option of including a professional fly fishing guide on deck, or fishing with a local captain.

▲ 6 nights/5 days fishing, pricing begins at $2,000

Bahamas

Herle Hamon photo

When it comes to spectacular bonefishing opportunities, outstanding lodges, skilled guides, and a wide range of flats experiences tailored for both experts and beginners, the Bahamas sets the standard.

WHEN CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS set foot on the tiny island of San Salvador in 1492 he was glad to see terra firma. He knew where he'd been, but not where he was. Chris sailed away from the Bahamas in search of where he wanted to be, the West Indies (*Spice Islands*) without knowing the globe was bigger around than he thought, and that he hadn't a prayer in hell of ever hitting his target.

Fast forward five centuries and you'll find that the spice in the lives of many modern day saltwater fly rodders is bonefish, and that the Bahamas is the most reliable spot on Earth to find them.

The Bahamas archipelago is an ecological oasis sprinkled over 100,000 square miles of shallow sea, with more than 700 islands and over 2,400 islets and cays (*only about 30 of which are inhabited*).

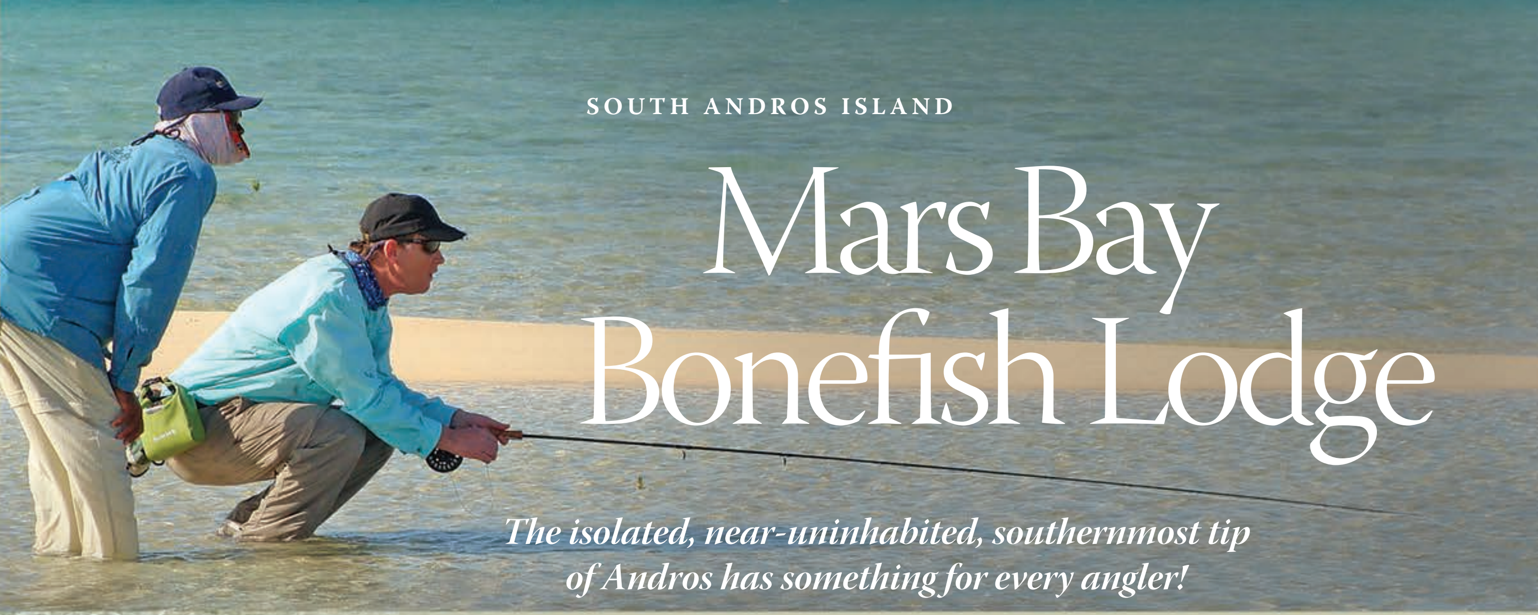
The flats of the Bahamas appear to have been custom-tailored by Mother Nature for fly fishermen, and the fishable area of the Bahamas dwarfs the combined size of the all of the flats of Belize, Honduras, and the the entire Mexican Yucatan.

There's something in the Bahamas for everyone. Serious, hard-core fly fishermen can find just the kind of action they're after, while anglers traveling with their family or non-fishing companions have several choices that will put a smile on their face.

The Bahamas is all about bonefish, and most people would agree that the Bahamas is the Bonefish Capital of the World. Even their currency has bonefish on it!

Nearly all of the 16 major islands of the Bahamas – and countless smaller cays as well – are surrounded by flats teeming with bonefish of all shapes and sizes. There is something here for everyone, from vast schools of bonefish that are perfect for the novice flats angler, to trophy bonefish tailing in singles and pairs that are a challenge for even the most seasoned salts, to everything in between. Some places are best fished from the comforts of a modern flats boat, while other areas offer mile upon mile of wadable white sand.

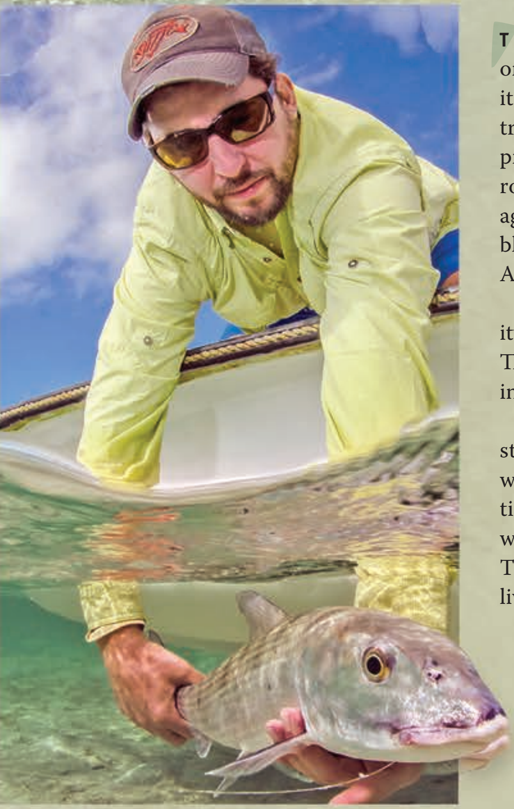
The Bahamas boasts a 50-plus year history of bonefishing. There are dozens of established lodges dotted throughout this island nation, all boasting some of the most experienced guides in the world. Everyone speaks English here, the food is amazing (*especially if you enjoy fresh seafood and conch*), and the laid-back atmosphere always makes for a relaxing, fish-filled angling holiday. And it's easy to get to, too! Many visitors can leave their home in the morning and by afternoon find themselves sneaking up on a tailing bone as it meanders across a beautiful white sand flat.



SOUTH ANDROS ISLAND

Mars Bay Bonefish Lodge

The isolated, near-uninhabited, southernmost tip of Andros has something for every angler!



Mars Bay Lodge photos

THE ROAD ENDS at Mars Bay Lodge on the southern tip of Andros in a vast uninhabited complex of hard sand flats and cays. It is a trackless saltwater frontier with little fishing pressure and very few humans. The water surrounding the lodge is home to giant schools of aggressive 3-5 pound bonefish, as well as double-digit single trophies – the trademark of Andros Island.

If there's a secret to the success and popularity of Mars Bay it is the variety and the guides. There's something there to suit every anglers interests and the scene changes with every tide.

If it's a flood tide in the morning, you might start the day poling the mangrove edges, or run west chasing the last of the incoming. On a low tide you could pole the deeper edge of a flat, or wade white sand flats that stretch for miles. The guides are all local talent, born, raised, and living in Mars Bay. They're as comfortable in a boat as they are on land and have an encyclopedic knowledge of the surrounding fishery and bonefish behavior. With a wide variety of habitat within easy striking distance it's an easy chore to accommodate everyone's fishing preferences.

The fishing days begin early and they are usually action-packed. The runs are short and little time is wasted motoring long distances. The exception is when the weather is perfect and both anglers and guides choose to head for seldom-seen, seldom-fished parts of the famous southern flats of Andros. The home water flats in front of the lodge fish well, particularly on lower tides and bones are caught there on a regular basis.

There is nothing pretentious about this beachfront lodge. With a maximum occupancy of only eight anglers, Mars Bay fills quickly. They don't operate from June through October and open their doors only in the height of the season – November through May. Mars Bay accepts reservations for singles, doubles, and is the perfect place for a bunch of friends after the whole place.

The fish-savvy guides specialize in different parts of the massive complex of tidal flats and backcountry lagoons. Assignments are made each evening and guides are rotated every day to insure fairness and a diverse experience.

The whole operation has a carefully cultivated, casual atmosphere. It wears the fingerprints and has the feel of its American owner/operator, Bill Howard. He maintains the boats and equipment, makes all the repairs around the lodge, orders supplies, fuels the boats, and carries the coolers. He's hands-on and on-hand with a well-earned reputation as the hardest working lodge-owner/operator in the Bahamas.

The lodge has a laid back vibe but don't let that mislead you. Everything goes off on time as scheduled. One entry in the guest book said it all,

> *"The lodge runs like a Swiss watch with great food, a great staff, clean rooms, excellent guides, well maintained boats, great fishing. We'll be back!"*

The superb kitchen serves classic Bahamian dishes – cracked conch, conch salad, fritters and chowder, lobster, and fish a couple of different ways.

They also serve grilled ribeye steak and New Zealand lamb rack, and occasionally a stuffed pork loin or chicken. It's certain that you'll never leave the table hungry and wanting for more.

Like all South Andros and most out island lodges, Mars Bay requires connections in Nassau or on one of the several regularly scheduled Makers Air flights out of Fort Lauderdale. Of course there are optional charter flights as well.

▲ 7 night/ 6 day dbl occ angling package $5,900

Stays can be tailored for as many nights as requested.

The best of Andros

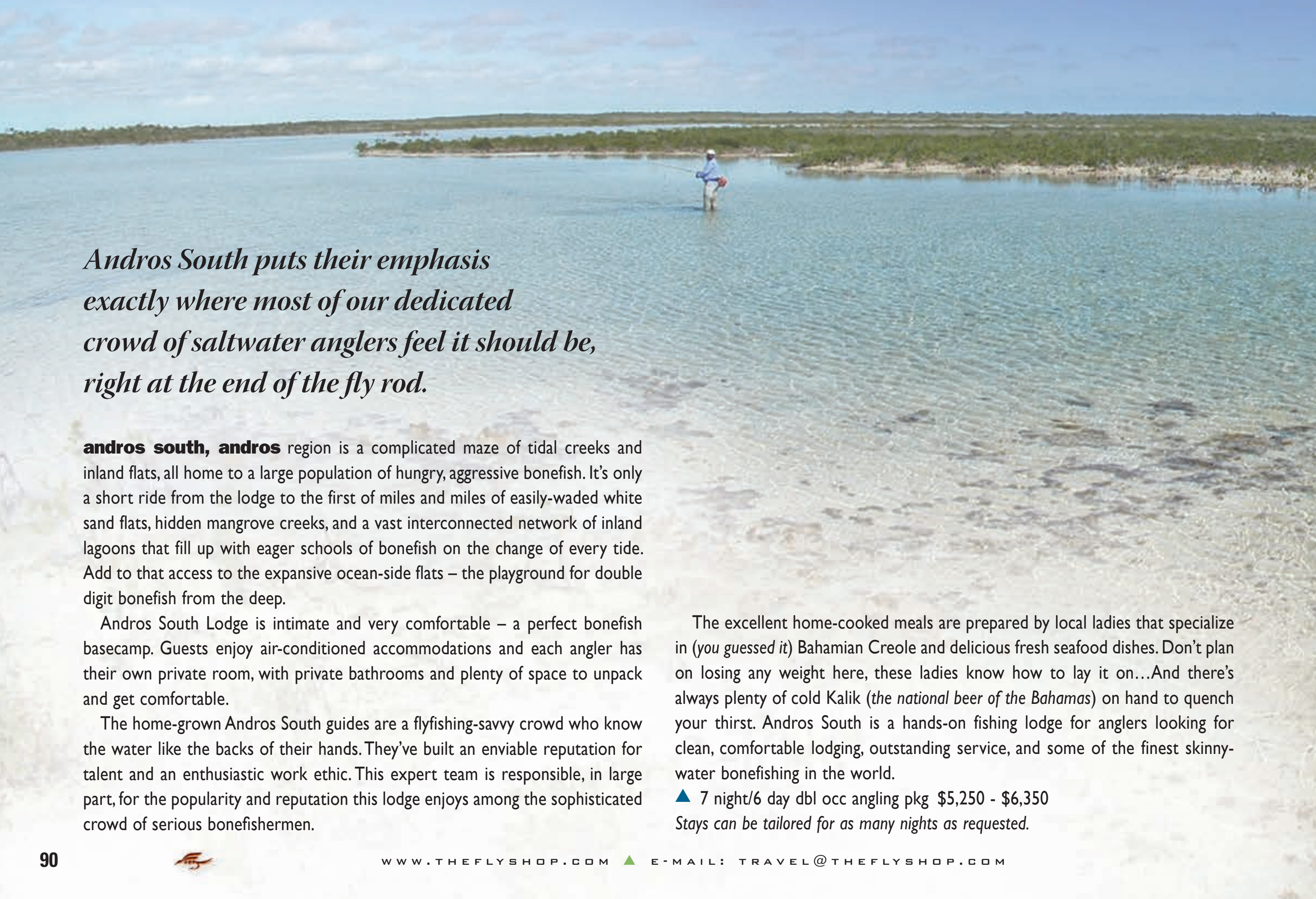
AN ARCHIPELAGO within the Bahamas, Andros is the largest of the country's 26 inhabited islands. Its three major island components, North Andros, Mangrove Cay, and South Andros are separated by broad, deep channels, or bights. When reckoned as one island, the total land area is greater than the other 700 Bahamian islands combined.

To put the size of Andros into perspective, consider that Andros (*by itself*) is only a bit smaller than Puerto Rico and that it is the size of both Rhode Island and Long Island combined, with a population estimated to be less than 8,000 and declining. Nearly all of the island inhabitants live along a narrow strip on the eastern shore of the island near the Queen Elizabeth Highway.

That entire eastern shore of Andros is bordered by the 6,000-foot deep "Tongue of the Ocean" which, in turn, is one of the two main avenues of the Great Bahama Channel and provides some of the finest off-shore, blue water angling in the world.

There are several deep arterial troughs, or bights running northeast to southwest connecting the blue water on the Atlantic shore to the west side of Andros. Most of the famous flats fishing of Andros is done in those bights and on the extensive flats of the Great Bahama Bank which lies off the west, northwest, and southern shoreline of the island. That area has more than 1,100 square miles of flats, estuaries, and tidal wetlands with several hundred more square miles of flats found in those creeks, bights, and on the island's eastern periphery.

Together the flats of Andros constitute a phenomenally large fishery and though there are nearly two dozen lodges and a number of independent guides on the island, it is quite possible to spend the entire day on the flats and not encounter another angler. Amazing!



Andros South puts their emphasis exactly where most of our dedicated crowd of saltwater anglers feel it should be, right at the end of the fly rod.

andros south, andros region is a complicated maze of tidal creeks and inland flats, all home to a large population of hungry, aggressive bonefish. It's only a short ride from the lodge to the first of miles and miles of easily-waded white sand flats, hidden mangrove creeks, and a vast interconnected network of inland lagoons that fill up with eager schools of bonefish on the change of every tide. Add to that access to the expansive ocean-side flats – the playground for double digit bonefish from the deep.

Andros South Lodge is intimate and very comfortable – a perfect bonefish basecamp. Guests enjoy air-conditioned accommodations and each angler has their own private room, with private bathrooms and plenty of space to unpack and get comfortable.

The home-grown Andros South guides are a flyfishing-savvy crowd who know the water like the backs of their hands. They've built an enviable reputation for talent and an enthusiastic work ethic. This expert team is responsible, in large part, for the popularity and reputation this lodge enjoys among the sophisticated crowd of serious bonefishermen.

The excellent home-cooked meals are prepared by local ladies that specialize in (*you guessed it*) Bahamian Creole and delicious fresh seafood dishes. Don't plan on losing any weight here, these ladies know how to lay it on…And there's always plenty of cold Kalik (*the national beer of the Bahamas*) on hand to quench your thirst. Andros South is a hands-on fishing lodge for anglers looking for clean, comfortable lodging, outstanding service, and some of the finest skinny-water bonefishing in the world.

▲ 7 night/6 day dbl occ angling pkg $5,250 - $6,350

Stays can be tailored for as many nights as requested.

mangrove cay club, mangrove cay andros

Mangrove Cay has ushered in a new era of comfort for Andros anglers with lovely cottages, an inviting clubhouse, great bar, superb kitchen, top-flight service, an exceptional group of guides, and ultra-professional management.

There are more than 600 square miles of superb flats within easy striking distance. The numbers of fish can be astounding, the opportunities for trophy-size fish are routine, and there's little other angling pressure on this part of the island. Fishing begins or ends at the dock, and it is a relatively short run to the west side of the island.

This place is at the top of our list. It is a five-star lodge, and a first-class operation. We couldn't endorse it more strongly.

▲ 7 night/6 day $7,700

swain's cay, mangrove cay, andros

Perfect for anglers of all levels, from hard-core flats fishermen to families or couples looking to explore the flats together for the first time. Everyone leaves relaxed and happy. Swain's Cay is a true escape to peace and tranquility on a spot surrounded by white sand beaches, swaying palm trees, and picture-perfect flats. This is a wonderful spot and one of the most modestly-priced, quality bonefish packages in the Bahamas.

▲ 7 night/6 day $5,995 ▲ 4 night/ 3 day $3,155

bair's lodge, south andros

This spot gets our endorsement as one of the top lodges in the saltwater world. Bair's guests enjoy an end-of-the-road lodge with superb, beachfront, air-conditioned accommodations. The talented, local guides have access to some of the best Andros bonefish back-country as well as the South Andros shoreline *(famous for hungry, trophy bonefish)*. Their home water is where really big babies pop out of blue creeks, pouring onto shallow, peripheral flats to forage for crabs. It's Andros' happy hunting grounds.

▲ 7 night/6 day package $6,695 - $7,350

andros island bonefish club, cargill creek, andros

This place cemented Andros Island's reputation in the fly fishing world, and it's a spot we've been able to count on, year after year, for more than a great bonefishing trip.

Great accommodations, no frills, just good food and a focus on flats fishing. Rupert Leadon started this place and put Andros on the map. He left behind a legacy of seasoned professionals and a stellar reputation that hasn't diminished a bit after three decades of reliable service, great fishing, cold beer, comfortable rooms, fine guides, and exceptionally fair prices.

The main lodge overlooks the water and the watering hole has been a favorite gathering place for serious fly rodders for thirty-three years. Each of the roomy, air-conditioned duplex cabins at this well-established lodge has two queen-size beds and a private bath.

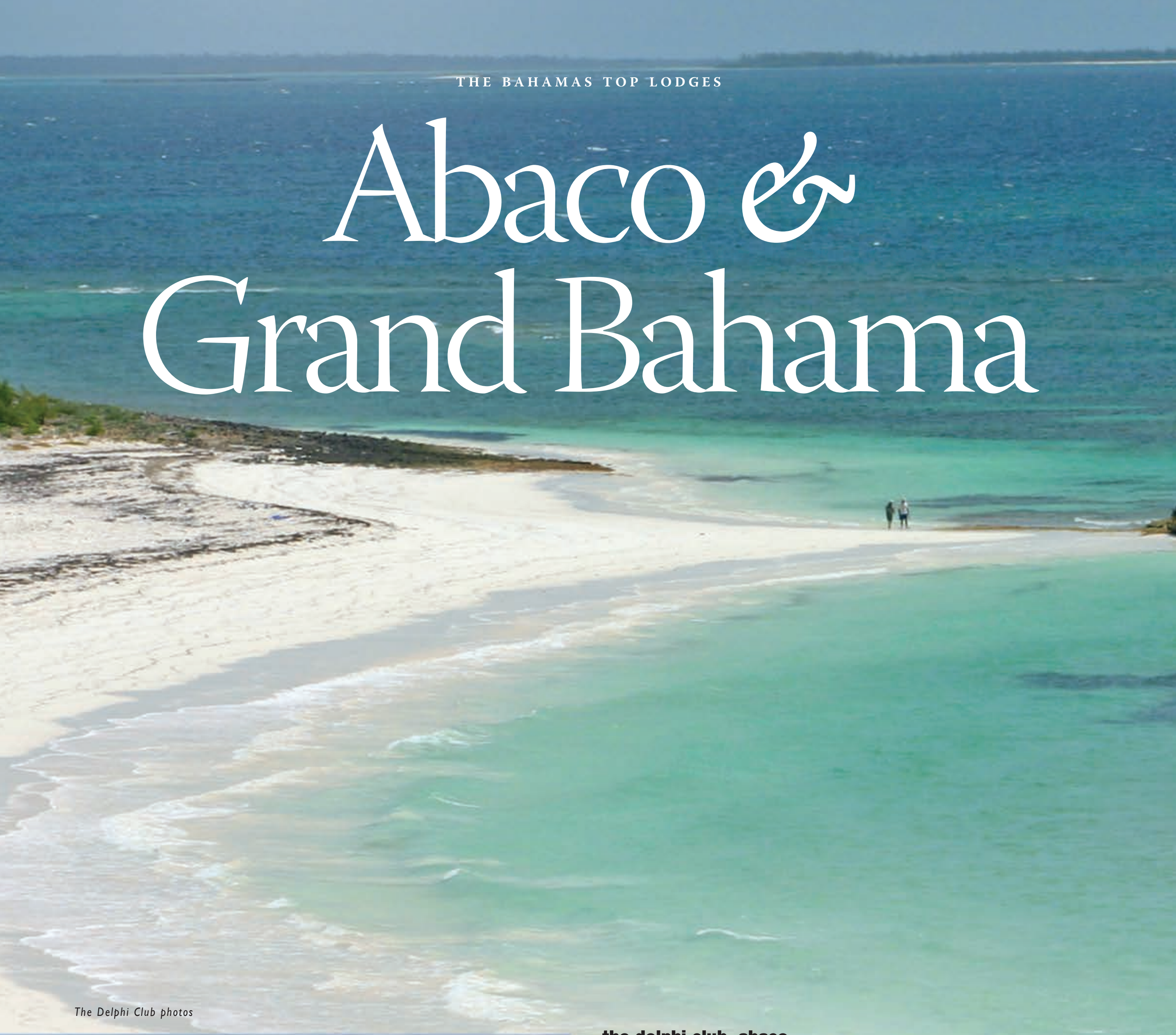
▲ 7 night/6 day $3,610 ▲ 4 night/3 day $1,995

Abaco Island Bonefish Club photo

Andros South photo

THE BAHAMAS TOP LODGES

Abaco & Grand Bahama



The Delphi Club photos

the delphi club, abaco

The luxurious Delphi Club overlooks a white sand beach on the southeastern coastline of Abaco and boasts more bonefish-covered flats than anyone can fish in a week. Sandy Point, Cross Harbour, and the isolated marls of Abaco are all within range. The extensive fishery is paired with equally superb accommodations, cuisine, and a panoramic Atlantic sunrise.

▲ 7 night/6 day $7,999 ▲ 4 night/3 day $4,350

▲ *Delphi is perfect for non-anglers and packages can be tailored for couples*

little abaco bonefish lodge, little abaco island

Based in the quaint fishing community of Crown Haven, the variety of fishing locations surrounding Little Abaco Bonefish Lodge is unbelievable. The flats surrounding Little Abaco are varied, including soft bottomed backcountry lagoons, islands wrapped in hard white sand; lush turtle grass gardens, and everything in between. The guides of Little Abaco can fish the tides on both sides of the island, and tides can vary as much as four or five hours depending on location.

This is a small operation, hosting only 6 anglers per week, making it the ideal destination for a small of group serious bonefish aficionados.

▲ 4 night/3 day $2,350 ▲ 7 night/6 day $3,750

▲ *Combo resort/angling packages can be tailored for couples and families*

north riding point club, grand bahama island

This luxury lodge rates near the top of everyone's list of great trophy bonefishing resorts. North Riding Point Club anglers will spend their time on the world-famous trophy bonefish flats of Grand Bahama in relative seclusion. Fish here are very large on the average, and it isn't unusual to get shots at true monsters on these flats.

Nothing is spared at the Club, and the packages include everything that is necessary to insure a marvelous fishing holiday. North Riding Point guides are among the most experienced in the Bahamas, and their guests enjoy spacious, air-conditioned, beachfront bungalows, a wonderful dining room and bar as well as a refreshing freshwater pool for after hours relaxation.

▲ 7 night/6 day $7,667 ▲ 4 night/3 day $4,779

▲ *Shorter, non-angling, and single occupancy package prices are available*

h^{2}o bonefishing, freeport, grand bahama island

There isn't an easier quality bonefish destination to get to in the Bahamas than this one where anglers can customize their holiday on Grand Bahama Island.

It is a wonderful choice for anglers, couples or families, but make no mistake, this bonefishing is as good as it gets. These popular, flexible packages include accommodations at Pelican Bay *(one of the island's resort hotels)*, breakfast, packed lunches, terrific guides, modern skiffs, and easy access to the world-class flats. Fishermen can fashion their own after-angling dinner and alternative guest entertainment plans at any of dozens of nearby restaurants, boutiques, golf courses, casinos or SCUBA operations.

▲ 4 night/3 day $2,249 ▲ 7 night/6 day $4,395

▲ *Combo resort/angling packages can be tailored for couples and families*

H2O Bonefishing photo

East End Lodge photo

THE FREEPORT airport is less than half an hour flight from Fort Lauderdale, and has direct flights from Miami and New York City. It is home to luxury resorts, a major casino, several fine golf courses, and three of the finest fly fishing lodges in this tiny Caribbean nation. The island is about 75 miles long. Every inch of the periphery is covered with bonefish flats, and a rich fly fishing history.

east end lodge, grand bahama island

A rising star in the Bahamas, this is a hard-core, few-frills operation that boasts an excellent team of guides and easy access to the famous flats of McClane's Town and the entire East End of Grand Bahama. It is a very affordable alternative to North Riding Point Club.

▲ 7 night/6 day $5,595 ▲ 4 night/3 day $3,190

▲ *Different packages stays and single occupancy rates are available*

Soul Fly Fishing Lodge

Purposely kept on the low down by veteran bonefishers for decades, the Berry Islands is home to the newest flats fishing lodge in the Bahamas – Soul Fly Fishing Lodge. Anglers will now be able to access hundreds of square miles of beautiful white sand flats in pursuit of trophy-size bonefish, permit, triggerfish, barracuda, and mutton snapper.

THE BERRY ISLANDS are a cluster of 30 remote cays, nestled between Abaco Island to the northeast and Andros Island to the southwest, about 30 square miles in total area and adjacent to the Great Bahamian Canyon or "Tongue of the Ocean" whose depths exceed 14,000 feet. The Berry Islands are often referred to by locals as "The Fish Bowl of the Bahamas" because of the wildly rich biodiversity found in these bountiful waters.

The population of the Berry Islands is only about seven hundred people, most of whom live at Bullock's Harbor, adjoining Great Harbor Cay. It's one of the least inhabited islands in the Bahamas, and has been purposely kept on the low-down for years by the few anglers that fish here. It is now home to the newest bonefish operation in the Bahamas, Soul Fly Lodge. The brainchild of Captain Kyle Schafer and his wife Kitri, an experienced saltwater fly fishing guide and former managers of Bairs Lodge on South Andros. Soul Fly Lodge's location on the east side of the island will finally allow anglers access to wilderness Bahamas bonefishing in the Berry Islands.

The Berry's are home to some of the largest bonefish in the Bahamas as well as a very valid permit fishery. The fishing program at Soul Fly Lodge is built around pursuing multiple species in a maritime wilderness setting with access to a huge diversity of fisheries including miles and miles of firm white sand flats, backcountry creeks, acres of mangroves, expanses of beautiful turtle grass, oceanside edges, and endless miles of shorelines and coves. The Berrys offer fly anglers a daily chance to pursue bonefish, permit, triggerfish, barracuda, mutton snapper and other flats species from the bow of the skiff or on foot. It's as diverse of a fishery as there is in the Bahamas, and a target rich environment.

> ***The saltwater flats of the Berry Islands offer some of the finest permit fishing in the Bahamas. Fish tend to follow rays, making it a target rich environment.***
>
> *– Pat Pendergast*
> *May 17, 2022*

The location of the lodge is absolutely dead-center, affording quick and easy access to hundreds of square miles of hard white sand flats that can be waded on foot or fished from a flats skiff. Short runs to nearby flats will have you fishing within 15 minutes in a brand new fleet of Maverick 17 HPX-V & Hells Bay Skiffs, powered by Yamaha 70 hp outboards. The skiffs feature padded seats, a leaning bar on the casting platform and dry storage lockers, as well as radios & GPS locators. The lodge has assembled a team of legendary local guides that are experienced, courteous, instruction oriented and dedicated professionals.

Soul Fly Lodge sits 22 feet above sea level, overlooking the Atlantic Ocean on the east side of Great Harbour Cay. Less than 5 minutes from the newly rebuilt airport and only a few minutes from the marina, their location is ideal. A short, palm-lined path leads you past the 20´ x 50´ freshwater pool down to a white sand beach that you can walk for miles. Surrounded by rugged Bahamian landscape, the easy comforts at the lodge will allow you to relax and set your clock to Bahamas Time. The lodge features four private guest rooms each featuring two queen beds, individually operated air conditioning units, and full en suite bathrooms.

Meals are taken in the eclectic Carriearl Roost dining room, and prepared by the lodge's renowned Bahamian chef. Foodies will be charmed with appetizers like lobster egg rolls, conch fritters, mini fish tacos and entrees of grilled mahi mahi, blackened grouper, stuffed lobster, grilled ribeye and cajun pasta, complemented by homemade desserts like cheesecake or Crème Brûlée. One thing is for sure – you won't go hungry at Soul Fly Lodge.

We are really excited about Soul Fly Lodge and finally being able to fish the Berry Islands. Their location is spot on, and their experience operating in the Bahamas along with their commitment to excellence and executing a world-class fishing operation should make them a staple in the Bahamas for many years to come.

▲ 6 night/5 day $5,350

Stays can be tailored for as many nights as requested.

Soul Fly Fishing Lodge photo

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THE FLY SHOP® SIGNATURE DESTINATION

Crooked & Acklins Islands

Featuring nearly a thousand square miles of fish-covered flats!

Herle Hamon photos

CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS, in his search for gold in the Bahamas, once sailed carefully through the narrow, shallow channel that separates Crooked & Acklins islands. Two centuries later marauding Dutch pirates temporarily established a stronghold on Acklins, using it as a base to attack trading vessels in that same passage before being annihilated by the British navy. Then, at the conclusion of America's fight for independence, Crown loyalists fled the south and attempted to re-establish their antebellum life in parts of the Bahamas (*then still part of the British empire*), building more than forty short-lived cotton plantations on these two near-connected islands.

None of these unsuccessful explorers, brigands, or Tories had any premonition that in the twenty-first century, this boomerang-shaped pair of islands would become one of the greatest sportfishing treasures in the Caribbean.

Though separated by a deep channel, the two islands are surrounded by a massive, shallow lagoon (*Bight of Acklins*) and Crooked & Acklins are usually referred to in the same breath.

Together, Crooked & Acklins islands cover about 200 square miles of the Earth's surface. Their combined north and eastern shoreline borders a shallow, fisherman-friendly, sand-covered shelf that drops off quickly into blue water and provides a constantly replenished parade of permit, tarpon, and some very large bonefish.

Crooked & Acklins are located in the extreme southeast of this tiny island nation. It's where the spring comes early, the winters are predictably mild, and the weather is ultra-reliable.

The massive Bight of Acklins connects Crooked, Acklins, and the much smaller Long Cay like a subsurface umbrella. This monstrous shallow lagoon covers nearly fourteen hundred square miles, and over a thousand square miles of flats that are protected from the prevailing Easterlies by atolls on three sides.

The bottom color of this picture-perfect bonefishery ranges from white, to pink, to tan, and turtle-grass green. Much of the Crooked & Acklins flats are firm-bottomed, wadable, and covered with exceptional numbers of good-sized bonefish, and the more than occasional trophy.

If there's been a lack of notoriety about Crooked & Acklins, it is undoubtedly due to the fact that there's little else here but great fishing on an array of flats so immense that it's a near-impossibility to explore them all in a single season. There are no upscale dive resorts, industry or agriculture.

There are few, if any restaurants, and no non-anglng entertainment. There's only one small, great fishing lodge, and very limited, bi-weekly, airline service.

The depopulation trend of the Bahamian Out Islands intensified on Crooked & Acklins after the two islands took a direct hit by Hurricane Joaquin in October of 2015 and were ravaged again by Hurricane Irma in September of 2017. The number of permanent, native residents of both islands is now only a couple hundred and continues to dwindle.

All this translates into very little in the way of pressure, or competition. It is rare to see anyone else on the flats, and the bonefish, permit, and tarpon on the Crooked & Acklins island flats usually live their entire life unmolested.

Signature The Fly Shop Since 1978 Destination

Signature Destinations carry our total endorsement.
It's The Fly Shop's promise of satisfaction and our iron-clad guarantee that the quality of the experience and angling is going to be exactly as advertised.

This seldom-visited fly fishing paradise in the Bahamas Out Islands offers non-stop action, variety, and a comfortable, modestly priced, no-frills package for only 10 anglers. This is social distancing with a purpose. Welcome to Crooked &Acklins Lodge!

OUR FRIEND, Herle Hamon, a French outdoor photographer, writer, and vagabond fly fisherman introduced us to the Crooked & Acklins Lodge four seasons ago.

The location was superb. On our first visit, we found large bonefish pouring out of the mangrove backcountry onto these firm flats on every change of the tide. There were the occasional shots at permit, excellent meals, clean, spacious, comfortable air-conditioned accommodations, fly-savvy guides, first-class skiffs, and endless flats that were created by Mother Nature for fly fishermen.

Since then, our crowd of discriminating angling travellers has had nothing but success at Crooked & Acklins and, like all great destinations, every aspect of the operation continues to improve with time and experience.

Getting to Crooked & Acklins Lodge requires an overnight en route in Nassau, but easy connections on the homeward flight. Private charters out of Ft. Lauderdale are an option.

There are no long commutes to the flats, and the nearest fish are just minutes away from the ten-angler lodge.

crooked & acklins island lodge

It's one of the least visited fisheries in the Caribbean, about as far south as one can travel in the Bahamas. So far south, in fact, that it's below the weather systems common to the northern Bahamas, and December, January, and February are great months to be there. It is also home to Crooked & Acklins Island Lodge, a private beach-front operation that does a great job of catering to fly fishermen, accommodates a maximum of 10 anglers, and is one of the best bargains in the Bahamas.

▲ 7 night/6 day (*Saturday-Saturday*) $3,990

▲ *Shorter and single-occupancy packages are available*

Belize

The entire coastline of this small, former British colony is protected by the 2nd largest and most biologically diverse coral reef in the world. This 240-mile long sea wall rises up to form dozens of small islands, a spectacular natural aquarium and thousand of square miles of uninterrupted, fish-rich flats, and a harbor for bonefish, permit and tarpon.

THERE REALLY IS something for everyone in Belize. From the northern Mexico border to Honduras the seashore is littered with tiny keys and dotted with fishing lodges. Inland Belize is believed to have been the true heart of the Mayan world and it is thought that there are more unexcavated ruins in the country than in all the rest of Central America.

Formerly British Honduras, the country has a very diverse racial mix, but everyone in this narrow, sparsely populated coastal country speaks English and is somehow connected umbilically to the Caribbean, either as commercial fishermen or in some tourism related industry that counts on the sea as a resource. It is no wonder then that the government monitors passed, in 2009, the most comprehensive catch-and-release fishing legislation in the saltwater world. It was designed to protect and ensure that their sportfish *(bonefish, permit, and tarpon)* will continue to thrive and entertain anglers for generations. A decade later, much of what was hoped for is coming true.

Most of the Belize resorts take advantage of the incredible reef and provide snorkel, kayak and world-class SCUBA diving activities in combination with angling. A few just offer top tier fly fishing.

The Fly Shop® doesn't represent them all, only those with a focus on sport fishing and a well-vetted team of professionals that we can count on to deliver for our clients. We've worked for decades with most of our lodges and have an intimate understanding of their strengths and weaknesses.

Each of the places we represent has its own unique character. Some offer world-class, sophisticated fly fishing guides while others emphasize family-oriented, multi-faceted activities, deluxe accommodations or three-star culinary experiences; some are simple fishing camps with a hard-core emphasis on dawn-to-dark fishing.

Belize is the ideal place for fly rodders in search of constant challenge, whether they're experts or totally new to the saltwater flats. It is renowned for its permit fishing, sure to frustrate even the most competent casters. It is one of the few destinations where tarpon of all sizes are found year round. Its bonefish are plentiful and consistently put a bend in peoples' rods and a smile on their faces.

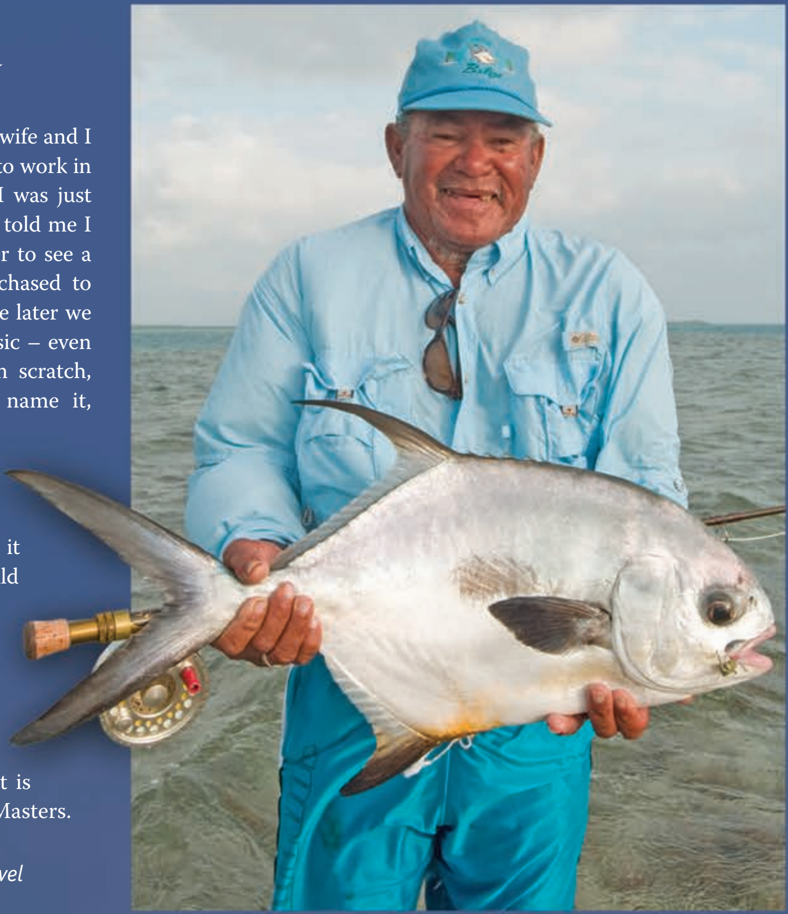
The Fly Shop® has been going to Belize since before Belize was cool. Give us a call today and we'll hook you up.

BLUE HORIZON FLY FISHING
PERMIT

Brian O'Keefe photo

THE LEGENDARY PERMIT GUIDE

Lincoln Westby



I FIRST MET Lincoln Westby in November of 1996. My wife and I had just moved down from Alaska to Redding, where I was to work in the Travel Department with Mike and Bertha Michalak. I was just getting my footing when one morning Mike walked in and told me I would be going to southern Belize with the late Will Bauer to see a brand new lodge called Blue Horizon. Tickets were purchased to Belize City and on to Dangriga and about an hour boat ride later we arrived on Northeast Caye. At that time, BHL was very basic – even spartan would be a stretch. Lincoln built the lodge from scratch, bringing every board of lumber, toilets, showers, you name it, including hundreds of boat loads of sand to shore up the island. Three small cabanas on stilts and a small lodge was it. Perline, Lincoln's wife, did the cooking, Lincoln and his brother David were the guides. I quickly realized that both brothers were in a league all to themselves when it came to permit fishing. I swear the Westby brothers could smell permit. Lincoln and David were like great athletes – they were three steps ahead and had you on fish before the fish knew what was happening. I was 32 at the time and had amazing vision, but these fellas were like ospreys and could spot a fish in a 30 knot wind, with 4 foot swells, hundreds of feet out. I hooked and landed my first permit at the feet of both Lincoln and David. It's a memory that is etched in my mind forever, all at the hands of the Permit Masters.

Pat Pendergast, Director
The Fly Shop International Travel
pat@theflyshop.com

blue horizon lodge

Blue Horizon Lodge was the brainchild of Lincoln Westby, with the support of Will Bauer and The Fly Shop back in November 1996. "I built it where it was because I wanted to be in the center of the best permit fishing in the world," said Lincoln. "And that was it right there . . . it was heaven." That location was Northeast Caye, and its dead-center location remains today as one of the finest spots to target Belizean permit on the fly. In 2015 Lincoln sold his operation, and five years later the new owner did a complete renovation. Blue Horizon Lodge reopened in 2020, featuring many of the original buildings yet with a fresh redesign that incorporates modern comforts that traveling anglers have come to enjoy and expect. The goal of the redesign was to create an atmosphere that honors the heritage of Lincoln Westby's original lodge, while rejuvenating it with contemporary luxury elements. The main lodge features an open air design, allowing anglers to fully appreciate the beauty of the surrounding marine environment.

The five guest cabanas, for a maximum capacity of ten anglers, have been completely refurbished and deliver a surprising level of sophistication and comfort for such a remote location. Each room is furnished with two full size beds and a private bathroom, complete with on-demand hot water showers. Air conditioning is standard in all of the rooms, providing guests the choice of enjoying the ocean breeze, or a controlled climate. Rod racks, shelving, and hangers will help you organize your gear. The island has wireless internet access covering the majority of the property. And best of all, Lincoln is still guiding and his stable of Westby-trained guides are some of the best in the business at putting anglers on permit. We can't be more excited about the NEW Blue Horizon Lodge and hope you feel the same.

▲ 7 night/6 day	$4,500
▲ 5 night/4 day	3,165

▲ *Single occupancy, private guides as well as shorter and extended stays are available options.*

The Fly Shop's line-up of truly Great Belize Lodges

EL PESCADOR Christy

Orion Multimedia photo

Turneffe Flats Lodge photos

turneffe flats lodge

In the 1980's Mike Michalak *(The Fly Shop®)* and a few friends used to rent a Grand Banks out of Mojo Caye for 6 or 8 weeks each spring and cruise the coast of the country from Ambergris Caye to Punta Gorda, stopping when and where they wanted to fish, replenish fuel, drinking water, or Belikin beer.

Grand Bogue Caye, where Turneffe Flats is located, was always a stop. The bonefish covered flats were protected from wave action by the spectacular reef, crayfish were plentiful, and the hearts of infant island palms made wonderful hors d' oeuvres. Thirty years later a spectacular resort has taken root there.

Turneffe Flats Lodge is famous as one of Belize's premier saltwater fly fishing, SCUBA diving, and marine eco-tourism destinations. Nearly 300 square miles of the archipelago reefs, flats, creeks, lagoons, and marine habitat begin at Turneffe's dock.

Many of the reef-side flats are perfect for stalking wary, tailing bonefish on foot in very shallow water, while the interior lagoon is home to schools of permit. The lodge features a world-class SCUBA operation and custom-tailors Atoll Adventures for non-anglers including snorkeling, kayaking, wildlife viewing, hiking, and even offers cooking classes.

Guests relax at the end of every fish and fun-filled day in air-conditioned cabanas within a few swim strokes of some of the Caribbean's best snorkeling. The food is terrific, the beers are ice-cold, the cocktails are strong, and you can walk back barefoot to your lovely, private, beachfront cabaña.

The country's slogan is *"Belize has it all!"* We here at The Fly Shop® believe that Turneffe Flats Lodge certainly does.

▲ 7 night/6 day $4,890-$4,290

▲ *Single occupancy, non-angling rates are available*

▲ *Turneffe offers a full SCUBA program for both experts and beginners.*

el pescador

A short commuter flight from Belze City gets you to the romantic island of Ambergris Caye in just minutes, where San Pedro was once a sleepy little fishing village with a great bar at one end and Paradise Inn at the other. It's also the home island to El Pescador, which has over the years morphed from a little-known fishing lodge into one of the Caribbean's finest and most popular angling and holiday resorts.

El Pescador has an unparalleled reputation as an ideal destination for both serious anglers and those looking to enjoy a combination of fishing, relaxing, and eco-touring.

The casual lodge atmosphere and some of the top guides in Belize are remnants of El Pescador's storied past and reasons for its popularity with anglers of all skill levels. Most test the Bay of Belize, nearby flats and the more distant mangrove shoreline and flats of Ambergris Cay to sample year-round action on a fly for resident tarpon, bonefish, and permit.

The lodge serves delicious meals, has a well-stocked bar, and a menu of eco-tour options including SCUBA diving, snorkeling, sea kayaking, Mayan ruins, cave tubing, beach combing, and zip-lining. Non-anglers can frolic in any one of El Pescador's three freshwater swimming pools, or snorkel in the sea.

- 7 night/6 day start at $5,520
- *Longer and shorter options are available*

Orion Multimedia photo

Michael Caranci photo

belize river lodge

In the New Years Eve darkness of 1959 the angling pioneer, Vic Barothy, and his movie actress wife, Betty, fled to Belize from Cuba's world famous lodge, Isla de Piñas, taking with them their staff and all they could carry in three off-shore cruisers, and towing every skiff they owned. There were no fishing lodges in what was then British Honduras, and when it came to choosing a new fishing site, Vic had pick of the litter. He considered the options, chose well, and built Belize River Lodge in a location he considered to be among the best in the Caribbean. Without electricity, Vic had the place built by Mennonites who used only hand tools. The decision was a wise one, and the historic lodge has remained in continuous operation and will celebrate its 63rd birthday in 2022.

What made it famous and has kept it popular is a tremendous variety of angling options. Guests choose each evening how they'll spend the next day. There are near-limitless coastal flats just a ten-minute boat ride downriver from the lodge. Adult tarpon are regular residents near the river mouth, and a few more minutes in the skiff puts anglers dead-center in the midst of some of the best bonefish, permit, tarpon, and snook fishing in Belize.

The angling menu is diverse and with the immense Bay of Belize and its near-unlimited angling being only minutes from the Belize River Lodge dock, it's often difficult to choose whether to spend the day wading the flats, prospecting coastal creeks or lagoons for snook, or searching upriver for mangrove-shaded baby tarpon. And when winds plague the open flats there are protected tributaries, creeks, lagoons, mangrove shorelines, and the river. Decisions are made easier with the help and advice of a team of talented, very experienced, and hard-working guides, who'll do whatever it takes, day in and day out, to ensure every guest has a great trip.

Belize River Lodge also operates Long Caye Outpost, a private getaway located in the islands mere minutes from the best flats, and a great option for small groups.

Belize River Lodge has been run for several decades by Mike Housner and Marguerite Miles, has a well-deserved reputation for hospitality, fine food, accommodations, and first-class service.

- 7 night/6 day start at $4,875 per angler
- *Single occupancy, non-fishing, and short packages available*

long caye outpost is an extension of historic Belize River Lodge and an idyllic angling outpost perfectly situated in the heart of some of the finest flats and cayes in Belize. This island getaway sits on the front of Long Caye overlooking Belize's Barrier Reef and offers spectacular views of the Caribbean Sea. Its strategic and central location affords quick and easy access to Hicks Cays, Caye Chapel, St. George's Caye and is about 20 minutes from Caye Caulker. Anglers target bonefish, permit tarpon, jacks and barracuda on a daily basis in a remote and quiet setting, far away from anything resembling "busy" but close to all the action.

As with fishing from the main lodge, the Long Caye guides fish for long hours often exceeding the normal 8 hour day. Since the island is surrounded by some of Belize's best fishing waters, you can enjoy extended time on the flats. If that's not enough, there are some great flats you can walk to from the lodge that regularly hold feeding bonefish and permit.

Long Caye is perfect for small groups and families looking for an intimate setting out in the cayes. The outpost lodge features three double occupancy bedrooms, each with two twin beds, and is ideal for groups of four to six anglers. There is a shared bath for all, with hot and cold water. There is no air conditioning at Long Caye, but the fresh breeze blowing off the sea, combined with ceiling fans in every room, keeps the building comfortably cool. The main building has a full verandah overlooking the beach and is the perfect spot to enjoy a cold Belikin Beer or Cristal Rum and Coke with friends or family.

Long Caye Outpost can easily be added to stays at Belize River Lodge on the mainland. The combo trips to both destinations offers a diverse and fun adventure, the best of both worlds, and all is expertly orchestrated by the talented and hard working staff. We can't think of a better place to spend a week in the Caribbean.

- 7 night/6 day starts at $4,875 per angler
- *Single occupancy, non-fishing, and short packages available*
- *Custom tailored, off-shore and coastal live-aboard cruising options are available*

The Fly Shop's line-up of truly Great Belize Lodges

Michael Caranci photo

tarpon caye is a Belizean misnomer. This comfortable fish camp is nestled below coconut palms on a tiny private island in the heart of some of the most prolific permit grounds in Belize and it should be named Permit Caye. The closest flats are only a short cast from the bar and it's not uncommon to see permit tailing from your cabaña porch. The private accommodations are quite comfortable and the Belikin beer in the ocean-side bar is ice-cold.

Tarpon Caye guides fish the tides, not the clock. They're on the flats when the light and water depth is best, not when it is most convenient. They have a dawn-to-dark work ethic that has made them some of the most productive and popular permit and flats guides in all of Belize.

▲ 7 night/6 day packages $3,575 - $4,200

copal tree lodge *(formerly Belcampo)* combines excellent fishing with high-end lodging, fine dining, and rates among the top accommodations in Belize. This is luxury, Belizean-style, with lodging options that include private bungalows and suites built into the embrace of the verdant hillside jungle. The surrounding terrain is constantly alive with the motion of forest and the sound of birds and wildlife.

This slightly inland resort has easy access to the verdant flats of Punta Gorda with an emphasis on permit, with opportunities to cast to tarpon, bonefish, and snook.

The excellent farm-to-table dining room at Copal Tree is a part of what is billed as a complete Caribbean experience. Non-anglers relax in plush accommodations while delighting in the full-service spa and a selection of eco-tour options. The activities menu includes kayaking, hiking, mountain biking, bird watching, market trips into Punta Gorda , excursions to the regional Mayan ruins and optional SCUBA diving.

▲ 7 night/6 day $3,825 - $4,500

Prices vary slightly by season. Longer and shorter stays are available, as well as single occupancy packages, and accommodation upgrades.

Copal Tree Lodge photo

Michael Caranci photo

Copal Tree Lodge photo

Brian O'Keefe photo

THE FORBIDDEN CARIBBEAN

All about Cuba

Cuba's legendary flats have re-opened for business and The Fly Shop® has teamed up with a reliable, modestly-priced outfitter with exclusive access to a great fishery!

HAVANA'S EL MALECON is a broad, 8-mile long esplanade, that stretches from the mouth of Havana Harbor in Old Havana to the Vedado neighborhood. Due to economic reforms that allow Cubans to own private businesses, it's now lined with tourists and entrepreneurs.

In fact, tourists from around the world seem to be in a rush to visit Cuba. By far the largest number appear to be coming from Canada and western Europe where arrivals have been increasing by almost 10% for a decade. Nobody really has an accurate estimate as to how many Americans travel to Cuba each year, legally or otherwise.

For the second time since an economic ban was placed on doing business with the Cuban nation in 1959, the political climate appears stable. What is now required for U.S. citizens to obtain legal permission to visit Cuba is a current U.S. Passport, Cuban Tourist Visa Card *(purchased online for about $85)* and a declaration that motivation for travel to Cuba is for "educational purposes" or any of a dozen other reasons the U.S. government now considers legitimate.

American travellers are now pouring into Havana in numbers that actually exceed the amount of tourism prior to the Cuban revolution, and fly fishermen are understandably part of that crowd.

CUBA IS larger than the entire state of Florida with half a dozen destinations that are of interest to flats fishermen: Jardines de la Reina *(Gardens of the Queen)*, Cayo Largo, Isla de Juventud *(Island of Youth)*, Cayo Cruz, Cayo Santa Maria *(Gardens of the King)*, and the Zapata Peninsula. After visiting Cuba several times, The Fly Shop® decided to focus on the Zapata Peninsula, primarily because it is the least impacted of the Cuban fisheries.

The Zapata Preserve is a UNESCO World Heritage Site, and is protected by the Cuban government as a fly fishing only, catch-and-release marine reserve. World Heritage Site status effectively preserves the pristine habitat of flats species that include bonefish, tarpon, permit, snook, Cubera snapper, and barracuda.

This huge, 6,500 square-mile ecosystem is 60 miles long and 20 miles wide and was set aside in 2015 as the San Lazaro Biosphere Reserve, which prohibits commercial fishing and ensures the habitat and fisheries will be protected and enhanced for generations.

Fly Fishing the Run is the only operator allowed within the massive, 3,200 square mile West Salinas Region of the Reserve, and every one of the shallow flats, back bays, creeks and cays surrounding this massive, internationally protected wilderness is considered to be their exclusive fishing grounds.

Guests enjoy the use of a comfortable, mobile, live-aboard vessel, the MV Georgiana. From locations in the heart of the Preserve, run times to the fishing grounds are short.

The ultra comfortable MV Georgiana live-aboard easily accommodates it's eight weekly guests, a very talented and hard-working crew, or team of fly-savvy guides, and a combination of six single and double skiffs.

Anglers rotate during the week between the swift single and double skiffs – fishing solo for three days, and sharing a skiff and guide with a buddy for the others. The single angler flats skiffs are perfect for bonefish and permit in shallow back country while the double skiffs are more suitable for tarpon fishing and longer runs to fishing grounds further to the west.

The mobility of the mother ship translates into a number of advantages in this huge and diverse off-shore parkland.

The guides enjoy enthusiastic anglers and aren't allergic to long days, allowing you to fish as hard as you want. A remarkable contrast to many other destinations or lodges where you are often limited to six or eight hours on the water, including running time.

This unique fishing program guarantees anglers that at least half of their week will be in a single skiff with a private guide – receiving 100% of shots. Nobody else in Cuba offers a sweeter deal, and at no additional cost.

fly fishing the run

The package includes the airport reception, quality hotel on the night of arrival, all transfers, and all meals and guided fishing on board for 7 nights.

This is a terrific package, very modestly priced by Cuba standards. The outfitter is a completely reliable, experienced, and talented professional who delivers a top quality trip.

▲ 7 night/6 day package $4,250 - $5,750

Fly Fishing the Run photo

The Indian Ocean

The sheer size, number, and variety of fish species that have been introduced to the sport in the Indian Ocean has rocked the fly fishing world, and anglers from around the globe are queuing up to sample what are unrivalled fishing playgrounds.

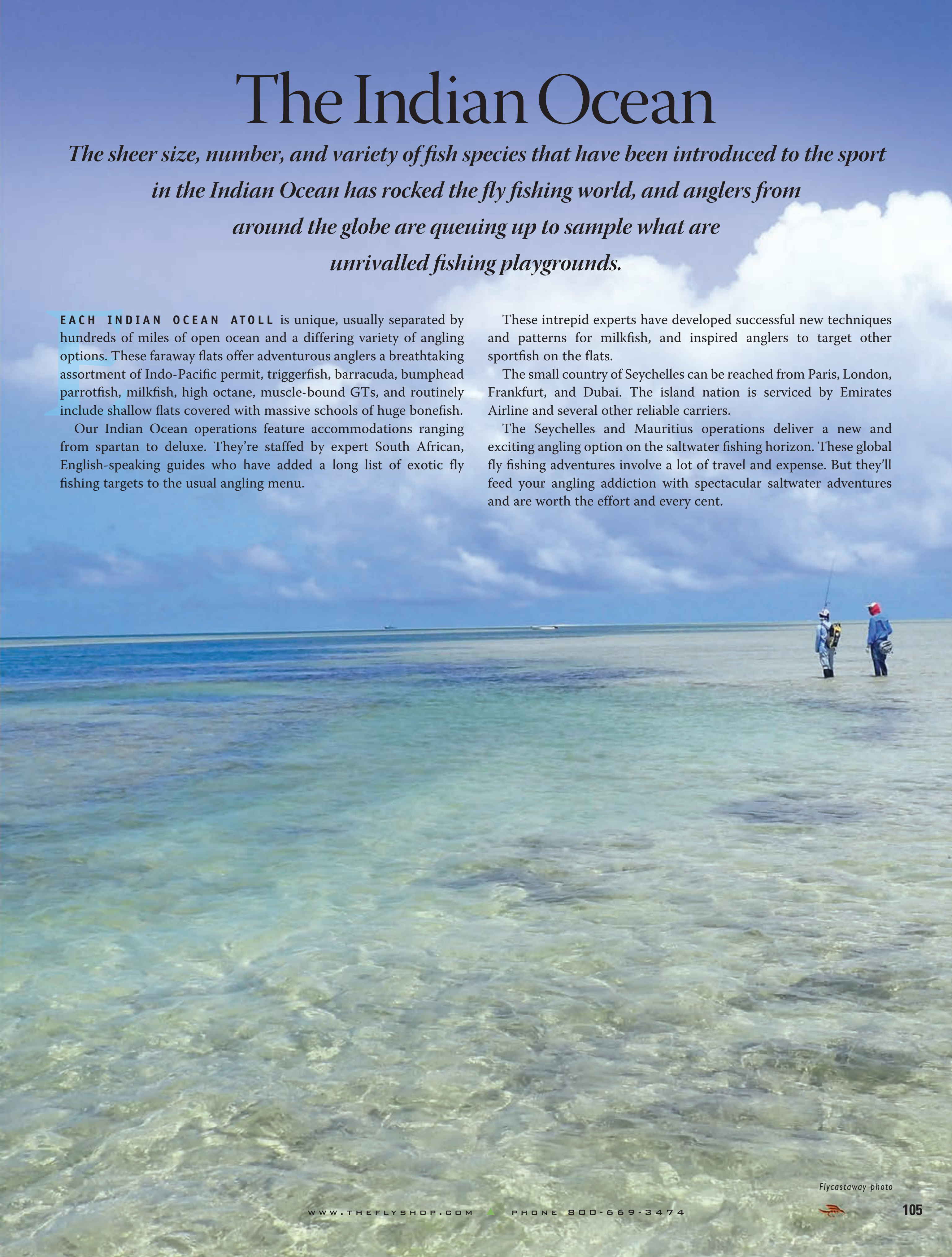
EACH INDIAN OCEAN ATOLL is unique, usually separated by hundreds of miles of open ocean and a differing variety of angling options. These faraway flats offer adventurous anglers a breathtaking assortment of Indo-Pacific permit, triggerfish, barracuda, bumphead parrotfish, milkfish, high octane, muscle-bound GTs, and routinely include shallow flats covered with massive schools of huge bonefish.

Our Indian Ocean operations feature accommodations ranging from spartan to deluxe. They're staffed by expert South African, English-speaking guides who have added a long list of exotic fly fishing targets to the usual angling menu.

These intrepid experts have developed successful new techniques and patterns for milkfish, and inspired anglers to target other sportfish on the flats.

The small country of Seychelles can be reached from Paris, London, Frankfurt, and Dubai. The island nation is serviced by Emirates Airline and several other reliable carriers.

The Seychelles and Mauritius operations deliver a new and exciting angling option on the saltwater fishing horizon. These global fly fishing adventures involve a lot of travel and expense. But they'll feed your angling addiction with spectacular saltwater adventures and are worth the effort and every cent.



Flycastaway photo

Seychelles & Mauritius

Introducing Oman Arabian Fly

OMAN IS THE NEWEST HOTSPOT that anglers have recently discovered in the Indian Ocean (*actually the Arabian Sea*), and Arabian Fly has become the top fly fishing outfitter on the Persian Gulf. This fishery is extremely unique for a very big reason…It is really the only place on Earth where you can catch the 3rd and most elusive species of permit, the Trachinotus Africanus! If you are a permit junkie, this trip has to be at the top of your list! The Africanus act differently than Atlantic permit (*T. Falcatus*) or Indo-Pacific permit (*T. Blochii*). Anglers often target Africanus from the boat as they feed on submerged coral or rock piles, in rolling waves crashing against the sheer cliffs of the Oman coastline It is quite a different experience from the typical skinny water flats where the permit earned their reputation for being so spooky! There is still some of that though with Indo-Pacific permit also available, tailing along the beaches without cliffs.

oman arabian fly

This is also a great destination to extend any trip to the Seychelles or Africa. It is reasonably priced by comparison, and is accessed via Dubai, which you are probably routing through anyway.

▲ 7 night/6 day $5,392 + VAT Tax

***MURRAY LOW** was one of our heroes, here at The Fly Shop®. He was a legend, fishing hundreds of days a year, all over the planet. He was relentless, but even with as many fish as he had caught, he was always just as stoked for the next one. We lost him last year, days after he landed this Africanus and a dozen others in a week.*

We miss you, Murray.

Fly Castaway photos

These spots have become the world's top bonefish, trevally and Indo-Pacific permit fisheries. They're the benchmarks for anglers searching for the ultimate in saltwater action, been vetted by the angling elite and proven to have fishing other saltwater destinations can only admire!

The best time of the year to visit and fish this part of the world is from mid-September thru early May.

alphonse island resort, seychelles

For good reasons, this is the most popular place in the Indian Ocean. It is the pinnacle of bonefish destinations and the global hot-spot for milkfish. Their sight-fishing menu includes trevally, triggerfish, and other exotics. Accommodations are superb and the resort is an excellent destination for non-angling companions and families.

- ▲ 7 night/6 day $12,510
- ▲ Non-fishing package $8,490

farquhar, in the seychelles may be the most diverse fishery on the planet, home to a myriad of exciting species including, but not limited to, giant trevally, bluefin trevally, bonefish, permit, triggerfish, bumphead parrotfish, Napoleon wrasse, snapper, and more! There's no other place like it in the world of saltwater angling.

- ▲ 7 night/6 day $11,375

saint brandons

This ultra-remote series of pristine white sand flats may be the most difficult to reach bonefish grounds on Earth. They also represent the top trophy bonefishing anywhere, and the most prolific Indo-Pacific permit grounds we've ever seen.

- ▲ 10 night/7 day $10,100

providence atoll

Providence offers spectacular sight-fishing action on more than 18 square miles of pristine sand and turtle grass flats that are part of one of the most beautiful fly fishing locations on the planet.

GT action on the shallow, wadeable flats is intense, and the off-shore angling potential in this Indian Ocean paradise is virtually unlimited.

- ▲ 7 night/6 days $14,950

Michael Caranci photo

TERRA AUSTRALIS "LAND OF THE SOUTH"

Australia

The land down under

AUSTRALIA MUST BE the last significant saltwater fly fishing frontier left on the planet. It has long been on our radar, especially after having traveled there to vet what it has to offer on two separate exploratory trips. We recently jumped back in and started working with some new world-class outfitters there to explore their remote and exotic saltwater destinations. We have been hearing stories from down under for years, but no story could prepare us for what we found when we made the leap to go explore it for ourselves, again, with these new amazing outfitters...we were not disappointed!

Australia is located in the Southwest Pacific, part of a larger area also called "Oceania", a geographical region that includes Australasia, Melanesia, Micronesia, and Polynesia, spanning the Eastern and Western hemispheres. Australia is its own continent, about 3 million square miles in area, with over 16,000 miles of coastline and boasting some of the world's most remote and seldom fseen saltwater fisheries. You have more than likely heard of the black marlin fishing off the barrier reef, at Cairns, Lizard Island, or the bill fishing on a fly up on the Gold Coast, but how about the Wessels, Cape York or Exmouth? Even today, there are fisheries in Australia that have not been fully investigated. And the more we explore, the deeper we want to dig into these new and exotic saltwater fisheries. What we have seen is mind blowing, while at the same time daunting, as there is so much of it.

Many of the exotic species made famous by the Seychelles in the early 2000's can be found in Australia – Indo-Pacific permit, GT's and golden trevally, as they both are in the Indo-Pacific region. But Australia has a bunch of trophy species that are absolutely unique and endemic only to this place, such as the blue bastards, barramundi and a rare species of Australian permit called T. anak, to name a few. Add to that the uniqueness of the Australian ecosystem and the wonderful hospitality the Aussies are famous for and you have a destination fishery like none other on Earth!

Weipa Sportfishing photos

cape york, north queensland

The tip of Cape York is one of the most amazing saltwater fisheries we have ever encountered. You can land over 40 species in a week, almost all on the same fly! The diversity in this part of Australia can not be overstated. queenfish, barramundi and golden trevally are the top targets, but you can also find Indo-Pacific permit, king threadfin and scores of others, even tuna and billfish! The protected estuaries and river systems provide respite when the wind whips up, so you always have a place with productive fishing. The professional guide team of Weipa Sports Fishing have the area absolutely dialed and will keep you in front of fish all week, constantly adapting to the environment.

The liveaboard mothership, the MV "Eclipse FNQ", is a 52-foot power catamaran, giving you the freedom to explore the Gulf of Carpentaria and its many remote reefs and rivers in style. The ship has fully air-conditioned cabins and communal living areas, as well as a shaded entertainment deck on the topside where you will enjoy most of your evenings telling fish stories. This ship is beautifully appointed for comfort and luxury.

▲ 2 Fishing Seasons *March - June & August - November*

▲ 7 night/6 day package $10,200 AUS *Double Occupancy*

the wessel islands, northern territory

The Wessel's are one of Australia's most remote and untouched fly fishing destinations. The Wessel Islands and tidal zones, in the Northern Territory, cannot be accessed without explicit permission from the Traditional Custodians and Land Owners. This guarantees that you will experience one of the least pressured saltwater fisheries on Earth…and the fishing reflects this protection!

Exploring the Wessel's sapphire-colored shallow flats, you will be stalking and sight-casting to an epic list of Australian trophy species including blue bastards, 2 species of Indo-Pacific permit, tuskers, barramundi and queenfish, to name a few. The All-star team from Aussie Fly Fisher has the exclusive rights to the area and are the only guys that can lead you through these remote and wild waters.

You will stay aboard the 70′ luxury liveaboard mothership, the MV "Wildcard". With no infrastructure in this wild area, this is the only way to go, but it is also the best, giving you far more freedom and range than a land-based operation would allow.

▲ 7 night/6 day package *Call for quote* *Double Occupancy*

THE FLY SHOP'S FRESH & SALTWATER

Custom Fly Selections

Our staff of experts have traveled to more than **30** *international lodges and camps in the past year! Let our unrivaled experience put a big bend in your fly rod by letting us stock your fly box for your next angling adventure.*

These are NOT generic, pre-packaged fly selections. Every specialty fly selection from The Fly Shop® is personally selected by one of our travel experts that have fished these destinations not just once but a bunch of times.

Mongolia Fly Selection
#22453 *Taimen* **$249.95**

Pat Pendergast photo

The Fly Shop® has been one of the sport's largest angling travel agents for nearly 40 years. We've visited, guided, and outfitted tens of thousands of fly rodders for fly fishing trips all over the globe and no one in the fly business is as experienced. Who better to help choose the right selection of flies for your next trip?

Order one of our custom selections and get the flies you'll really need!

Our team of experienced travel professionals fill every order individually, picking flies we know will work. We'll make sure your fly box is loaded with exactly what you'll need and just what we'd choose for ourselves. Whether you are headed to Alaska for king salmon, Kamchatka for rainbows, or Bolivia for dorado, you'll end up with a first-class selection of flies. Each one will be totally on-target for exactly the spot you're headed.

Show up prepared with nothing but the best

You'll arrive properly outfitted, and ready to catch fish with your fly boxes stuffed with deadly flies selected just for your destination by experienced anglers who know what will work. Because we've been there!

Or just order all the flies you want for your trip. When you return, just send back what you didn't use for a credit!

Travelling anglers can load up with all the flies they might think they need for a trip. When they return they're welcome to return any of those flies that are unused and in their original condition *(within 60 days of that purchase)* for a 100% in-store credit.

It's an open invitation to any travelling fly fisherman *(whether you booked your trip with us or not)* to expand your selection or load up on the proven patterns and insure your fly selection for a trip is complete!

Your selection will be made from fly fishing's largest inventory of flies

The Fly Shop® has a larger fly selection to choose from than you'll find in the combined Orvis, Cabela's, and Bass Pro catalogs. And our selections are chosen from proven patterns. They're not pre-packaged collections of cast-offs and leftovers.

The Fly Shop® sells nothing but the highest quality flies in the sport. They're tied by craftsmen to our own exacting standards using nothing but the finest materials, and hooks. Take it from us, you can't afford cheap flies.

JUSTIN MILLER *is typical of our talented team here at The Fly Shop®. He came on board 18 years ago and has done just about every job under our roof. He has fished most of the lodges we represent, though admits to having a soft spot for steelhead, salmon, and permit!*

Justin is our resident expert on Alaska, Kamchatka, Kola, Iceland, Australia, Canada, Brazil, Africa & Seychelles, and personally chooses the selections for those spots.

Alaska or Canada Salmon Fly Selections
#4912 *Silver Salmon*
$149.95

Arion Stevens photo

Alaska Fly Selections

The Fly Shop® has outfitted thousands of Alaska anglers; specify the date and location and we'll assemble a box of flies that'll slay the fish.

#4896	*Alaska Trout*	**$149.95**
4912	*Alaska Silver Salmon*	
4924	*Alaska King Salmon*	

Golden Dorado Fly Selection

Argentina or Bolivia? We know the ropes and the right patterns that will help insure your success.

#19335	*Golden Dorado*	**$269.95**

Bonefish Fly Selections

Let us know where you're headed and we'll put together what you need for that spot.

#4939 *Bonefish*
$109.95

Arapaima Fly Selection

There are only a couple of places in the Amazon where this fish can be legally caught. We know the ropes.

#19722	*Arapaima*	**$249.95**

Amazon Peacock Bass Fly Selections

There's no outfit in the world that is better prepared or more knowledgeable about jungle fly fishing than the experts at The Fly Shop®.

#18746	*Peacock Bass*	**$279.95**

Permit, Tarpon & Trevally Fly Selections

We know what works and we can fine-tune a box of flies for fishing anywhere in the salt.

#7475	*Permit*	**$139.95**
7491	*Baby Tarpon*	**149.95**
4866	*Tarpon*	**169.95**
4935	*Grand Slam*	**229.95**
23163	*Giant Trevally*	**199.95**

Chile & Argentina Fly Selections

There isn't a spot on the Latin American map we haven't fished dozens of times. Let us know exactly where and when you'll be there and we'll select just the right patterns and help insure the success of your angling holiday.

#4950	*Argentina Trout*	**$129.95**
4949	*Chile Trout*	

Tierra del Fuego Sea Trout Selection

Over decades of experience tuned us into the hot patterns for the Rio Grande.

#3559	*Rio Grande Sea Trout*	**$129.95**

Tigerfish Fly Selections

We know what works and we can fine-tune a box of Tigerfish flies for South Africa for these toothy critters.

#24581	*Tigerfish*	**$249.95**

All our selections are packaged in a convenient, transparent fly box.

Turks & Caicos

Miles and miles of bonefish flats too shallow for conventional boats

IMAGINE FLATS SO IMMENSE and so shallow that these ingenious operators had to get an airboat to cover them quickly and adequately. Even saltwater veterans will drop their jaws when they step out of this amazing craft onto hard, light-colored marl flats that appear to stretch to the horizon in all directions.

Everything but the travelling is done on foot, and no time is lost in locating schools of bones with these remarkable watercraft. The experienced pilot/guides skim the shallow flats until they find fish, leaving no doubt there are finned visitors a hop, skip, and a cast away.

It's a different method than anything most flats anglers are accustomed to, but in this part of the world, surrounded by so much skinny water, the technique makes sense and the results are impressive. Bonefish average an honest four pounds, and there are occasional trophy fish that will tip the scales into double digits.

The South Caicos flats can modestly be described as vast, rarely over mid-calf deep and often stretching beyond the horizon. This island paradise is made for those of us who prefer to fish for bonefish on foot, stalking them on shallow, white sand flats. All alone.

THE SLEEPY AND SPARSELY populated island of South Caicos in the British West Indies is home to some of the sexiest and largest white sand bonefish flats we have ever waded.

With more than a hundred square miles of ankle or mid-calf deep flats to explore, the airboat option employed by South Caicos is ideal. It's capable of accommodating up to six anglers, and there's just no more practical way to get around. Your guide will circumnavigate the flats in the airboat until you intercept a healthy number and consistent schools of bonefish. He'll have you bail out in hot pursuit, and hound the fish until they're caught, disappear or you get bored and want to go see some new water. Expect long and exciting days on the water and no complaints from the highly-motivated and experienced guides.

This relatively undiscovered fly fishing destination is custom-tailored for committed, hardcore bonefishermen, who want to wade and hunt shallow, hard-bottomed flats.

Skiffs/Airboat will put you on bonefish anywhere out on the flats

In addition to the airboats and paddle boards the outfitter uses to navigate and fish the razor-thin flats of South Caicos, he has recently purchased a Floyd 10wt 18′ tech poling skiff for up to two anglers and a guide along with a Razorfish Micro, 15' skiff for one one angler and guide. The new ultra light and shallow draft skiffs will allow anglers to explore and fish creeks, backwaters and bays that were only accessed by paddleboards in the past.

Something else that's great

There's no attitude, clock-watching, or bellboy union mentality to deal with at South Caicos. If the fish keep on coming at the end of the day, plan on watching the sun set on their tails instead of high-tailing it for the barn.

Paddling for Bonefish

As an added bonus, the outfitter has several custom made paddle boards anglers can use to explore and fish deep into the seldom fished backcountry waters teeming with bonefish.

What's cool about this place

This isn't your everyday fishing experience. The moment you step into the airboat, you feel that this is something special. When you spot school after huge school of respectable bones, you're certain.

The fishery at South Caicos is varied… some flats are bleach white like a sheet of white paper, while others are sparsely covered with turtlegrass producing a mosaic of dark and light patterns across the flat. Every inch we've covered is firm and easily waded.

On some tides, the guides will venture back into the inland bays and creeks to find bonefish. These areas are often rich havens for humongous schools of bonefish as they try to avoid the barracuda, sharks and other predators that roam the flats on higher tides.

east bay resort, south caicos

East Bay Resort is perched on a beach, set in the aquatic sanctuary of Admiral Cockburn National Park. Standard queen rooms are perfect for pairs of anglers – modern and comfortable, with air-conditioned rooms, bathroom with walk-in shower, coffee maker, microwave, mini-fridge, flat screen TV with cable, complimentary Wi-Fi, and a safety deposit box.

▲ 7 night/6 day dbl occ, 2 bedroom suite angling package $5,565

Stays can be tailored for as many nights as required

Read about Pat's British West Indies discovery trip to Turks & Caicos: *A Bonefish Story*

https://www.theflyshop.com/travel-blog/a-bonefish-story-from-turks-caicos-british-west-indies

> *The flats of "South" are immense*
> *and loaded with bones*
>
> - Pat Pendergast, *The Fly Shop*
> *Director of International Travel*

Mark Hatter photos

THE FLY SHOP
FLY FISHING
PRIME
TRAVEL
WORLDWIDE ANGLING DESTINATIONS

The Fly Shop's Prime Travel Club

Brought to you by people you can trust.

Prime Travel is your definitive source of information on the finest fly fishing destinations in the world. Whether you are looking for a family holiday, a last minute cancellation special, or a prime week at a high demand fishery, Prime Travel is a resource-tool to help find exactly what you are looking for.

JOIN THE PRIME TRAVEL CLUB, AT NO COST. Provide us your email address and/or phone number for the categories you are most interested in, and we will notify you of special travel opportunities, last minute cancellations, prime available dates at high demand fly fishing spots, and more. We promise not to flood your inbox with trivial information – only what you want and need.

Sign up today...simply go to our website to submit your info:
https://www.theflyshop.com/travel/index.html

Prime Travel Categories:

- Last minute cancellations – one angler's misfortune is another's opportunity
- Dead-center, hard to secure dates at a world-class fly fishing destinations
- Single anglers looking for a fishing partner
- Hosted trips with a member of The Fly Shop's travel team
- Worldwide fly fishing destinations best suited for couples
- Family trips – what better way to make long lasting memories?
- Corporate & incentive travel

Kris Kennedy photo

EMAIL: TRAVEL@THEFLYSHOP.COM

The average international fly fishing trip takes a minimum of 40 hours of research. Save valuable time and gain inspiration with The Fly Shop®.

Last minute cancellations – one angler's misfortune is another's opportunity

If you are one of those fortunate fly fishers with an open calendar and can travel at a moment's notice, then you should get on our shortlist of last minute cancellations, low-season incentives, special offers and deals. These are high quality trips at some of the finest destinations in the world, often offered at substantially discounted rates. Get on our list, and we will update you on a need to know basis.

Dead-center, hard to secure dates at a world-class fly fishing destinations

Sometimes you just want the best – the best destination for the species you are pursuing, at peak season, outfitted by the best in the business. The Fly Shop® keeps its finger on the pulse of availability at some of the finest and most difficult places in the world to secure space. Maybe it's a prime week on the Babine River for steelhead, or maybe an absolute dead-center date at ESB Lodge for a week of permit fishing. Fresh or saltwater, we have the inside track on prime dates, all it takes is to sign up for notifications.

Single anglers looking for a fishing partner

Fishing as a single angler can be expensive, especially when it comes to saltwater fly fishing destinations, where solo anglers can expect to pay upwards of 60% or more for the privilege of having their own private room, guide and boat. The advantages are obvious, but you will pay a premium. If you don't mind sharing your room and fishing with another like-minded angler, we can help you find a suitable partner. We keep a long list of anglers looking for a fishing partner they can match up with and share the costs. And who knows, you might meet your next wingman!

Hosted trips with a member of The Fly Shop's travel team

One of the best ways to experience a new fly fishing destination is to join one of our staff on a "hosted" trip. You'll enjoy the award-winning service The Fly Shop® is recognized for and you'll have the added bonus of our experienced staff right there to help, start to finish. From helping rig your rods, to early morning casting lessons, to working with the lodge staff to fine-tune your daily goals and expectations, our pro-staff will do everything possible to make your trip a memorable and rewarding one. And if you're looking to avoid single supplement fees, hosted trips are a perfect option. Who knows, you might meet your new fly fishing partner.

Michael Caranci photo

There are no additional fees or costs associated with a hosted trip with The Fly Shop®. And, our staff usually travels with extra gear and flies, to share.

Worldwide fly fishing destinations best suited for couples

There are some fly fishing lodges and outfitters that do a great job of catering to angling couples, and non-fishing companions, and the staff here at The Fly Shop® are experts at creating angling holidays that can be a memorable combination of interests.

We've got places with amazing snorkeling, world-class wildlife viewing and photography, whale watching, hiking, horseback riding for all skill levels, and cozy spots for those who just want to curl up with a good book in front of the fireplace while their best friend is off catching fish.

The common denominators at all these getaways include breathtaking scenery, a variety of outdoor experiences, and fly fishing. We'll find you some great fishing that, combined with a line-up of non-angling activities, will make you a vacation planning hero.

Family Trips – what better way to make long lasting memories

Few things in life are better than a family vacation to a warm tropical paradise, a quiet little trout stream, or the wild maritimes of remote coastal Alaska or British Columbia. These family-oriented vacation spots offer world-class fishing and non-angling activities that are sure to keep the entire family entertained and happy.

We represent a strong stable of lodges and outfitters that are suitable for not only the angler in your life, but the entire family. They represent a broad spectrum of experiences, locations and budgets that are sure to make everyone happy. These are the types of vacations that forge strong family memories that last a lifetime

Corporate & incentive travel

What better way to facilitate teamwork, camaraderie and the spirit of cooperation within your business, then a fly fishing trip with your employees. This could be a single guided day on a trout river in Northern California or a multi-day trip to a destination lodge in Belize, Alaska, Mexico, Canada or Bahamas – the choices are endless. Trips can be custom-tailored for business meetings, board gatherings, team-building, educational seminars, or incentive travel rewards. We can also arrange for certified casting instructors to teach you and your team how to fly cast and fish. We work with a number of destination lodges that can accommodate as few as 6 or as many as 60 guests at one time. The Fly Shop® has helped companies like Walmart, Turner Communications, McDonalds, Ford Motor Co. and others and will handle all the fishing logistics from start to finish.

Val Atkinson photo

The Fly Shop

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or current resident

Erik Argotti photo

Planning *the* next step

The key to a great fishing trip is planning. It's that simple. And there's no one better able to point you in the right direction than the experts here at The Fly Shop®

The 116 pages of this magazine contain the best ideas and information The Fly Shop® has ever assembled about where and when to go, and choosing your next fly fishing destination.

The perfect time to pull the trigger on your bucket list trip and get the top dates is always as soon after the current season ends as possible. And, with all the upheaval and congestion caused by the re-scheduling of post-Covid trips, now is the best time to begin planning your next angling adventure!

We've been helping fly fishermen with their fresh and saltwater travel plans for 44 years. In the process The Fly Shop® has built an unparalleled reputation for honesty and customer advocacy.

Give us a call today.

Visit our website to receive our publications through the mail www.theflyshop.com/intro.html